

WALSALL CHRONICLE

Thursday, August 21, 2014

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SAME STORY

Saddlers carry on from where they left off



Families fork out £33k on new bins

FAMILIES in Walsall have been forced to pay more than £33,000 replacing bins, despite hundreds being given to some for free.

Householders have bought 1,805 bins, which cost £18.50 each, from Walsall Council in the last financial year. Meanwhile, 843 were exchanged or provided free of charge over the same period of April 2013 and March 2014. The council says they are provided free on occasions, such as when larger bins are needed due to the size of the household, or if containers are deemed too old.

The amount spent by residents on bins was £33,392 after they have been asked to pay for replacements for ones which have been stolen or vandalised.

The policy was introduced by the council in 2001 and initially cost £16.50, but increased in 2008 as part of the budget process. Blakenall councillor Pete Smith has condemned the policy of charging for replacement bins. He said: "These charges are totally unfair. For years I have been complaining about this policy. If someone has been negligent it is their fault but if they have had their bin stolen or set on fire and got a crime reference number I don't think it is fair."

Green light for gym bid

PLANS to transform a Walsall town centre office block into a gym, creating up to 30 jobs, have been given the go-ahead.

Sweat Gyms is to open within space created as part of the £55 million Tesco complex in Littleton Street West. The gym and health and fitness centre could attract up to 6,500 members.

The application for health facilities were lodged with Walsall Council and planning permission was granted under delegated powers.

MANOR DOCTORS CRISIS LOOMING

NEARLY a quarter of consultants jobs at Stafford Hospital are currently vacant – prompting fears by health chiefs in Walsall that it would have a knock-on effect on the town's already 'overstretched' hospital.

Reputation, competition and uncertainty about the future of services have been blamed for the difficulties facing Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust.

Report by Lisa O'Brien

New figures show there are 117 consultant posts at Stafford Hospital of which 26 are vacant. Most of the vacancies are filled by locum doctors but there are gaps in acute surgery, elderly medicine and radiology departments, which the trust has outlined as major areas of concern.

But Councillor Marco Longhi, chair of Walsall Council's health and social care scrutiny panel, said he feared vacant consultant roles would ultimately lead to longer waiting lists and pressure being put on neighbouring hospitals, such as Walsall Manor.

Increased

He added: "We already have an overstretched hospital in Walsall. I would like to think the management at Walsall Manor are making every provision for the extra activity from Stafford and that the hospital would also benefit from the increased activity, as long as it is met by the extra staff."

Manor Hospital has seen an increase in patients from Staffordshire over the last two years. Bosses have bid for government cash to help build a major expansion of the site in the coming years to help cope with demand.

New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton and the

University Hospital of North Staffordshire have also been taking on extra patients.

Maggie Oldham, chief executive at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, said: "As has been the situation for some time, recruitment of both nursing staff and consultants continues to be very difficult. University Hospital of North Staffordshire and the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals are providing the trust with as much help as they can."

A report written by the trust to Staffordshire County Council said: "There is limited medical leadership available to provide support to the executive and leadership to clinical specialities."

The number of nurses at the hospital is also of concern, despite a recruitment drive which saw four staff taken on in May.

A further recruitment event is due in September with the long-term aim of reducing the number of agency nurses to cover staff shortages. Hospital campaigner Cheryl Porter said: "The trust is blaming the reputation of the hospital but I think it has more to do with the uncertainty of the TSA process."

Fuchsia show set to be blooming great



Committee members Brian and Janet Tomalin get ready for Walsall Fuchsia and Flower Society's annual show

COLOURFUL blooms of all shapes and sizes will take centre stage at an annual flower show this weekend.

Members of Walsall Fuchsia and Flower Society are working round the clock to prepare their entries for the popular floral extravaganza on Saturday.

Entries will be split into 34 categories including Bonsai, fuchsias and even floral photography.

Publicity officer Brian Tomalin said: "All the members are working hard to get there plants in prime condition and

there are plenty of classes for them to compete in.

"The show is always very popular. It gets more popular each year."

The show has been running for more than 20 years and attracts up to 80 visitors each time.

Cups of tea and homemade cakes will also be served up to visitors and there is a plant sale and raffle.

The show is taking place at Blue Coat Academy in Birmingham Street, Walsall from 1.30-4.30pm. Admission is £1.

£12m will help build homes at old estate

MORE than £12 million has been secured to help create up to 900 homes in Walsall, it has emerged.

The funding has been awarded to Walsall Housing Group to invest in projects over the next three years.

The majority of the £12.3m allocation from the Homes and Communities Agency is expected to be ploughed into the Goscote Lane corridor.

There are plans for 412 homes to be built in Blakenall and there are early proposals to build up to 300 on the former Goscote estate in a bid to help transform the area.

The funding comes as housing and planning minister Brandon Lewis visited the town to see how housing providers are using modern construction methods to meet the demand for affordable homes.

Chief executive Gary Fulford said: "We were delighted to welcome the minister to Walsall and show him some of the work we are doing to build affordable homes across the borough."

Earlier this year WHG built 73 new homes in Barracks Lane, Well Place and Thames Road in Blakenall, costing £7m.

Plans are now in place to build up to 300 new homes on the former Goscote estate.

Second track fall man dies

A SECOND man who is believed to have fallen onto a railway line at Birmingham New Street has died – as it emerged one of them was an 18 year-old from Walsall.

The teenager who attended Queen Mary's Grammar School died in hospital last week.

He has not been identified at this stage. British Transport Police confirmed the other man, aged 30 from Handsworth, and also found injured on the rail line on the morning of August 7, died on Monday.

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Hoardings to go up alongside M6

NEW giant advertising hoardings are poised to be built next to the M6 despite fears they would cause a distraction and increase the risk of accidents. The two 50ft high illuminated screens are earmarked to go next to the busy motorway between junctions nine at Wednesbury and 10 at Walsall.

They will be in a V-shape and can be taken by companies for advertising, replacing an existing hoarding on land between Ikea and the Chestnut Tree pub off Axletree Way.

The Highways Agency and Sandwell Council have both objected to the proposal for the structure which will be up to 60ft wide.

However, members of Walsall Council's planning committee are being recommended to approve the application on the land near to the Gallagher Retail Park next week.

There are a series of signs alongside the stretch of the M6 including one outside the Banks's Stadium. It was made digital last year sparking complaints from residents.

The Highways Agency has now raised concerns over the latest application stating the motorway is already a common hotspot for shunts and unnecessary distractions will exacerbate the problem.

Around 160,000 motorists a day use the busy section and the High-

ways Agency say it and would be close to a gantry at junction nine and there is already a poor safety record with collisions above the national average.

Sandwell Council has also objected and in a statement to planning officers in Walsall state: "The substantial illuminated sign would appear as an unduly prominent structure, isolated and unrelated to its surroundings.."

Record number of companies start up

A RECORD number of new companies were formed in Walsall at the start of the year, a new independent report has revealed.

Latest figures show 330 businesses were created across the borough between January and March, a 20 per cent rise on last year. The multi-million pound revamp of the Old Square Shopping Centre is thought to be partly behind the surge.

Cabinet is decided on for council

THE new decision-making cabinet at Walsall Council has been announced after Labour regained control of the authority.

The group will be running the council for the first time in 14 years under the leadership of Sean Coughlan.

It has been announced that councillor Mohammad Nazir will be deputy leader and regeneration chief with Barbara Cassidy head of children's services.

Leisure and culture boss will be Khizar Hussain with transport and environment headed up by Lee Jeavons.

Councillor Diane Coughlan will be responsible for the social care while health will come under the responsibilities of Ian Robertson.

Councillor Keith Chambers will be a member of the cabinet with responsibility for personnel and business support. Council leader Sean Coughlan said: "We face some challenging issues, but we have a vision of where we want Walsall to be and we look forward to turning this into a reality."

A motion to remove Conservative leader Mike Bird and appoint councillor Coughlan in his post was tabled at a recent full council meeting.

The revamp will bring new Primark and Co-op outlets to the town creating 150 new jobs. And bosses behind the survey say they are expecting more companies to spring up in the town in the coming months.

Walsall Saddlers Centre manager Angela Henderon said: "This is great news for the borough and it just goes to show that the economy is picking up."

"I am very pleased that new businesses are coming to Walsall because that means more footfall."

"These figures are excellent and I hope that we can attract even more businesses in the future."

The figures from company formation agents Duport. co.uk

The company's managing director Peter Valaitis, said: "The figures we are seeing for Walsall are very positive indeed."

The figures have been produced as part of a Duport business confidence report.

Among the new businesses bases to set up in Walsall in recent months is recruitment agency Vebro which launched a new base in Lichfield Street earlier this year following an £8,000 investment.

Director Andrew Weaver said said there was a lot of draws to the borough.

"The main reason is the area is really good. You get people from Cannock, Wolverhampton and Birmingham coming in and there is great transport links. The council are good on their rates."

Daniel's haunting hopes



Daniel Duffield, aged 14, is creating a homemade haunted house, with sister Chelsea, 11

A SCHOOLBOY with a passion for all things horror will transform his home this Halloween and open it up to the public.

Daniel Duffield has set himself a £200 budget to decorate his three-bed semi in Willenhall with cobwebs, pumpkins, strobe lighting and fog all in the name of charity.

Volunteers will dress up as characters such as Freddy Krueger, Michael Myers to scare anyone brave enough to enter for the 10-minute experience.

The 14-year-old from Trinity Road in

Short Heath came up with the idea because of his love of horror films.

For the last month he has been researching haunted houses on the internet.

He said: "I've been racking my brain trying to come up with ideas that will scare people and make them jump as soon as they come into the house."

The Pool Hayes High School pupil hope to make the event an annual one if it proves to be a hit. Last year he decorated his house on a smaller scale and family mem-

Woman died after nursing home fall

AN elderly woman died in hospital after suffering a fall at a nursing home, an inquest heard.

Mavis Foxall was admitted to Walsall Manor Hospital on August 9 after she was found on the floor next to her bed at The Willows Nursing Home, in Wednesbury, where she had been a resident, Walsall Coroner's Court heard on Monday.

The 96-year-old deteriorated and died in hospital a day later. Lorraine Pitt, who works at the nursing home, said Ms Foxall had been heard crying out for help after having her fall.

She said prior to that, staff had helped her to the toilet and she had requested to stay in her room.

Her daughter Karen Robinson told the inquest that her mother had suffered a number of falls previously and described her as a 'proud' and 'dignified' woman. Her cause of death was given as respiratory failure, surgical emphysema and a chest wall injury.

Frailty, old age and ischaemic heart disease had also contributed to her death, the inquest heard.

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain concluded that Ms Foxall had died as a result of an accident.

Health hope with schemes

THE multi-million pound scheme for two new leisure centres in Walsall is a key part of work to make people healthier and happier, council chiefs have said.

Outdated facilities at Walsall Wood and Bloxwich are to be replaced under the £24m project. Work is due to start at Oak Park in autumn and Bloxwich soon afterwards.

Leisure chief, councillor Khizar Hussain said "We are extremely pleased to be able to confirm Council's decision on August 11 to build the new leisure centres at Oak Park and Bloxwich."

Fly-tipping cost

THE cost of Walsall fly-tippers - £206,311 - is putting services at risk, a senior councillor says. Lib Dem leader Ian Shires said: "Can you imagine just how many teachers, social workers and care workers this staggering amount of money equates to?"

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Council's rejection on flag of Palestine

THE Palestinian flag will not be raised over Walsall Council despite a campaign for the authority to show support for the victims of the Gaza conflict. The council said it would not be flying the flag in line with its protocol. Supporters of the Palestinian cause have voiced their misgivings.

Councillor Aftab Nawaz, a member of the Walsall Coalition for Palestinian Rights which organised a peaceful demonstration outside the council house this week, said: "It's very disappointing. I personally think it's the right thing to do in solidarity with those who are suffering."

Councillor Mohammed Arif, also a member of the group, said he was not surprised by the decision, as the current protocol over the flying of flags was in draft form only and had not been agreed by the council.

"I know how these things work and I never expected it to be easy," he said.

He suggested ways of getting past the protocol, such as a motion being put by a group of councillors, a petition containing more than 3,000 signatures or if the council leader requested it, when a vote would have to take place.

Longhorn in talent hope

A PUB is hosting a talent show to raise money for charities next week.

The Longhorn's Got Talent takes place in Sutton Road, Walsall, on Monday.

The aim is to raise money for Acorns and Macmillan Cancer Support and people are being encouraged to sign up.

It is free to enter and raffles will be held throughout the event which starts at 3pm. There is a £100 cash prize for the winner.

An application form is available for the Longhorn pub or by calling 01922 688886.

On the ramble

A RAMBLER group will head off on a seven mile walk of Lichfield this weekend. The Walsall group of Ramblers will go on the stroll around paths and lanes of London Green. For more details call 01543 379374 or visit www.walsallramblers.co.uk

Relief as blaze lorry pigeon boxes empty



The burnt-out shell of a van with empty pigeon boxes

THERE were fears hundreds of racing pigeons could be in danger after a lorry caught on fire on the M6 in the Black Country.

But relieved firefighters discovered the burnt-out vehicle, which was near the exit slip road at Junction 10 for Walsall, had only been transporting empty boxes, made specifically for carrying the birds. Fortunately the van driver was also uninjured in

the fire having been able to get out before crews arrived.

The lorry trailer was left gutted by the blaze, which caused severe delays on the motorway on Saturday afternoon.

The slip road was closed at around 1.30pm while firefighters extinguished the blaze affecting cars going along the northbound stretch. Just the shell of the charred boxes re-

mained after the firefighters put out the fire.

The motorway was shut for around an hour while firefighters and police were at the scene. The Central Motorway Police Group warned drivers of potential delays after the alarm was raised. It tweeted: "Lorry carrying pigeons well ablaze on the island. M6 flowing but traffic on roundabout at a standstill."

It was followed by a second tweet, which read: "Fire brigade have tackled blaze at J10 M6. Lorry was carrying empty boxes so no pigeons were harmed in the making of this tweet."

It came after 2,000 racing pigeons were saved from a lorry fire near Coventry just hours before. Crews were called to the incident at a Sainsbury's filling station in Foleshill on Friday.

Legal action threat after claims on patient's care

THE family of a woman with learning disabilities is threatening legal action against health chiefs over alleged poor care and claims nurses deliberately damaged a doll she believed to be her baby.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust has apologised for the distress caused and launched an internal investigation. Susan Hearsey, aged 64, was admitted to Walsall Manor Hospital last September following a fall while she was in a residential home.

During a seven-week hospital stay it is claimed that a nurse stuck her fingers up Susan's nose - causing it to bleed - when she wouldn't take her medication, that staff lacked an understanding of her special needs and were continually distracted by their mobile phones.

On one visit her family say they found Susan's air mattress fully deflated and said that on another occasion she was lying in a soiled bed.

They also claimed that she was not regularly washed and described her hair as matted and dirty.

The situation came to a head on September 15 when Susan's sisters Jane Dunn and Jennifer Walker heard her screaming in distress as they arrived on ward 14 where she was staying.

When they asked Susan what was wrong she said that a nurse had cut off her doll's arm because she would not lie down and shut up.

It is claimed that earlier staff had been throwing the doll, named Rachel, to each other like a ball.

The family described how Susan believed the doll to be her own real baby and treated it as such. The toy was found on the floor with its arm detached, some clothes missing, the legs damaged and a chunk of its hair cut off.

Susan, who lived with her

By Marion Brennan

parents on the Beechdale estate until their death 15 years ago, was transferred to a care home the next day.

Mrs Dunn, aged 57, of Chepstow Road, Bloxwich, said: "Susan is still traumatised by her ordeal. We're really angry. Before this happened she was always laughing and joking, now we can't interest her in anything."

"She's lost several stone in weight and insists on having the light on in her room at night."

"It feels like all the love and care we've given her has been undone." The family's case has been taken up by Merry Varney - legal firm Leigh Day's human rights expert. "We believe that owing to the seriousness of this matter, a full, independent investigation should be undertaken."

In a statement, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust said: "We would like to repeat our sincere apologies for the distress that Susan and her family have experienced following Susan's stay at Walsall Manor Hospital last year."

"We have taken the concerns raised extremely seriously and have undertaken a full and detailed investigation into the issues which were highlighted."



Josh Roberts, aged 19, of Walsall Warriors dodgeball team at Bloxwich

In the throws of new activity

MENTION the word Dodgeball and most people will think of the film starring Vince Vaughn and Ben Stiller. But the sport is growing in the UK with one group in Walsall going from strength to strength.

In its simplest form it involves two teams competing for the ball, and throwing it at their opponent to knock them out of the game. Walsall Warriors were formed around two years ago and now has a team in the Dodgeball Association (UKDBA) North Conference League.

They are celebrating success after picking up a regional title in the Midlands beach dodgeball competition in Kettering. Glyn Marston from Willenhall helped to set up and play for the club, actively promoting the sport in the area.

Walsall Warriors have a squad of 10 which ranges from 14 years-old to Glyn which meets at Willenhall Chart Centre in Gomer Street on Monday evenings and Sneyd Community Centre, Vernon Way, Bloxwich, on Thursdays.

But is now becoming popular with those even younger and they have regular sessions for seven to 13 year-olds.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Walsall teenager is safe and well

A TEENAGER from Walsall missing for over two weeks has been found safe and well. Kurt Woolley, aged 19, from Florence Street in Chuckery left on July 30 telling family that was moving to the south west to start a new job.

He was expected to come home just a few days later to celebrate his birthday but failed to return and had no contact with friends or family for 15 days.

After his mother made an emotional appeal he was found last Thursday. His family have thanked the public for their help.

Arboretum set to host walkers

THERE'S a chance for charity supporters to get involved next month at the Family for Life sponsored walk in Walsall.

The 12km charity walk takes place on Sunday 7 September at Walsall Arboretum and supporters of all ages can take part.

It starts at 12.30pm. This is the charity event's second year. Last year's event at the park raised an estimated £140,000 for Cancer Research UK. Register at www.cancerresearchuk.org.

Green light for care home boost

A RESIDENTIAL care home in the Black Country is to be expanded after getting the go-ahead from planning chiefs.

Holly Bank House in Willenhall provides accommodation for adults who have physical disabilities.

Plans for a new entrance and reception, conservatory, shower room and staff room extension were put forward for the site in Coltham Road.

Clinic scheme for two homes

HOMES could be converted as part of the expansion of a specialist health clinic in Walsall under new plans to be considered by the council this week.

Two semi-detached houses in Chester Road, Streetly, will become offices and meeting rooms for the adjacent Newbridge House, despite objections over noise and traffic.

Centre closures

LEISURE centres in Sandwell will be closed on Bank Holiday Monday. All those centres run by Sandwell Leisure Trust, including Haden Hill, Tipton, and Portway Lifestyle Centre, will shut.

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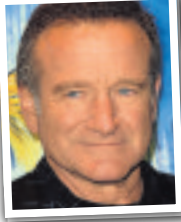


YOU have just qualified as a heart surgeon. You may owe £100,000 in college fees but you have a glittering career ahead, saving lives and earning a fortune. Then you pick up the paper this week and learn that Imperial College London is developing a new gene therapy which may cure heart failure with a simple injection. When good news is bad news.

THE Tories' latest brainwave is to knock on the doors of terraced houses, ascertain that the occupants are hard-working folk and then spit in their faces. That's not strictly true. What the Tories are actually doing is inviting White Dee of Benefits Street to be a guest speaker at their conference. But it amounts to the same thing.

IN Scotland Votes (BBC2) Andrew Neil wasted far too much time agonising about what would happen to Trident and the UK nuclear deterrent if an independent Scotland ordered all nuclear warheads off its territory. The filing cabinets of Whitehall are stuffed full of contingency plans for everything from the Russians landing in Oman to France annexing Dover. If Alex Salmond's government declared a nuclear-free Scotland, the contingency plans would be dusted off and the Trident submarines would slip silently under the Clyde, reappearing a few days later in the moth-balled pens which have been ready for them for the past 50 years. I'm guessing somewhere on the east coast of the United States but this is all Top Secret so you mustn't tell anyone.

A BIBLE basher refers me to the Book of Zechariah which predicts the end of the world shortly after Israel is invaded by "a power from the north" which he says could be Russia, Iran or Isis. That's the great thing about prophecies. You write them in 500 BC and 2,514 years later they finally come right (or more likely, wrong).



WE woke to the news that Robin Williams was dead. If you switched on the radio and caught the tributes before you realised who they were talking about, you'd never have guessed the dead person was a Hollywood celebrity. They said he was kind, sweet and humble. There's not a lot of that in Tinseltown.

TOLD you so. Already, more than 200,000 of the 800,000 souvenir poppies on display at the Tower of London have been snapped up. This is going to end in tears, with thousands of disappointed folk leaving it too late.

ONE of the nastiest forms of prejudice is the assumption that everyone else is prejudiced. The former boxing promoter Frank Maloney reveals he is undergoing sex-change treatment and is now a woman called Kellie. Virtually all the coverage on TV and print seems to assume that hordes of wicked, bigoted people will scorn Maloney and either laugh in her face or spit on her in the street. In fact, the reaction to Maloney's sex change has been generally kind, understanding and perhaps a little curious.

SO in the great scheme of things what should we worry about? Is it a) One silly Ukup politician telling young people to study Adolf Hitler's public-speaking technique or b) 20,000 people attending an anti-Israel rally in London and thus giving comfort to Hamas, whose aim is to finish the Holocaust that Adolf Hitler began?

THAT national treasure Lionel Blair is celebrating 65 years in showbiz and admits he is hurt by occasional barbs, including the running jokes about him on I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue (Radio 4). Only a few weeks ago chairman Jack Dee quipped that when Lionel was born they broke the mould – just to be on the safe side.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Pensioner died after collecting paper

A MOTORIST was over the speed limit before he knocked over and killed a pensioner, a coroner has ruled. Arnold Edwards, aged 88, died after being run over while walking home from a shop on Walsall Wood High Street to collect his morning paper on January 24.

Mr Edwards, who went by his middle name Clive, was hit at around 5.45am, crossing to get back

to his home on St John's Close. At his inquest at Smethwick Council House it was revealed that the motorist, Christopher Farnell, swerved when he spotted Mr Edwards crossing but could not avoid him, with the driver's side of his Ford Mondeo hitting the pensioner.

The inquest heard that after the accident Mr Farnell, from Coseley, was interviewed by police in which

he said he may have been travelling over the 30mph speed limit as he believed the limit was 40mph.

But Mr Farnell now disputes that, saying that he was still in shock at the time. No further action is being taken by officers. Mr Farnell said he had stopped around 200 yards before the accident while another vehicle turned right. He said the road was clear but then he saw Mr

Edwards, adding: "He was right on top of me when I saw him, he was right in the middle of the road."

After hitting Mr Edwards, the car crashed into a wall near the Boatman's Rest pub. Despite Mr Farnell's evidence, Black Country coroner Robin Balmain ruled that the car was over the limit.

He recorded death was due to road traffic collision.

Growing church in plans for extension

A CHURCH is poised to expand to meet growing demand from the community, under new plans.

Place of Refuge Community Church, in Talke Road, Delves, Walsall, is used by after school clubs, a men's forum and for English classes and as a community cafe.

An extension could be built to cope with rising numbers under plans lodged with Walsall Council.

In June 2012, the church became a registered charity in recognition of the services it provides to the public.

The community hall is also used for health awareness and first aid training.

In 2012, the church was awarded a Recognising Our Customers and Communities Award by Walsall Housing Group and in April it was awarded a Volunteering Team of the Year award through Walsall Voluntary Action.

It comes after bosses at Aldridge Parish Church announced its long-awaited expansion plans had been completed, with the new community facility getting ready to open next month.

Phinn's in at Garrick

AN evening of humour and poignant tales of life as a school inspector will come to Lichfield Garrick next month. The evening, with Gervase Phinn, dubbed the 'James Herriot of Schools' takes place on September 10 from 7.30pm.

It looks at his life as an inspector in the Yorkshire Dales and he has been engaging audiences across the UK. Tickets are £17.50 and available at www.lichfieldgarrick.com or by calling Lichfield Garrick's box office on 01543 412121.

Powell says Slade are ok

SLADE drummer Don Powell has vowed the band is in fine shape despite reports claiming they are looking to find a new singer.

Powell, 67, said: "We are carrying on as we are."

Slade recruited current vocalist Mal McNulty when Noddy Holder looked unlikely to return. The band have gigs around Europe before playing at Bilston's Robin 2 on December 18.

Students delighted at record A-level results

By Marion Brennan

STUDENTS in Walsall have been celebrating record A-level results despite the pass rate nationally dropping for the first time in more than 30 years.

However the proportion of students across the country handed the very highest grades has risen.

A decision to scrap the January exam session, which has cut the chances students have to resit papers, coupled with a move by students to opt for traditional subjects favoured by universities, is likely to have had an impact on results.

In Walsall some schools, including St Thomas Catholic High School, were celebrating their best ever A-level results.

The average point score at the Willenhall school was up by half a grade per A level with the A* to B rate up by one per cent to 28 per cent.

Dedication

Pupil Lauren Ferguson, also 18, from Bloxwich, has won a £10,000 bursary to study Theology at Newman University in Birmingham, after passing the necessary grades and is hoping to return to St Thomas More as a teacher.

She said: "I was worried I may have failed some of my exams but I'm actually really pleased with my results. I woke up the house screaming."

Sixth-form students at Black Country UTC in Bloxwich also recorded their best ever A-level results. Pass levels were up by two per cent whilst average point scores for both academic and vocational courses increased by a grade.

It was announced last month that the Black Country UTC is to relocate to state-of-the-art facilities next to Walsall College in April 2016, as part of a multi-million pound project.

Shire Oak Academy in Walsall Wood has enjoyed another successful set of results with the school increasing the percentage of students



From left, Aldridge School head boy James Fardell, Demi Rochelle, Calum Williams and Conor Talbot are all smiles



Q3 Academy students in Great Barr get their results

achieving three or more A*-E. The sixth form also maintained its excellent average points per student score of over 850 – well above the Walsall and the national average. Notable achievements from individual students include Callum Prosser who got an A* and three A grades and Steven Bennett who got an A*, two A grades and a B.

Shelfield Community Academy students celebrated huge improvements in a range of subject areas. The percentage of students gaining A*-C grades at A Level improved in over 80 per cent of subjects

with facilitating subjects such as mathematics, Spanish and biology marking a 100 per cent pass rate at grades A*-C.

The percentage of students gaining 3 A*-E grades in A levels has almost doubled since 2013. In maths all students gained grades A*-B at A-Level. The academy boasted its first Oxbridge applicant this year with Year 12 student Rose Bennett achieving four A grades at AS Level. She is hoping to study at Cambridge in 2015.

Principal Paula Ward said: "It is fantastic to see that the changes we



Shire Oak Academy's Callum Prosser and Jae Marple

have put into place this academic year within the sixth form have had such a positive impact."

Some 20 per cent of A-level grades at Aldridge School were either A* or A for year 13 students. Head boy James Fardell netted A*s in Economics, maths and his extended project, as well as an A in government and politics and a C in physics. The 18-year-old is now set to study economics and finance at Bristol University. At Great Barr's Q3 Academy, 74 students sat their exams and the pass rate went up to 99.4 per cent.

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Farage's backing for PCC hopeful

UKIP Leader Nigel Farage has endorsed his party's candidate for West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

The MEP backed Keith Rowe saying he was not a political 'yes man'. The election takes place next today, following the death of Labour's Bob Jones.

Mr Farage said: "Keith brings a lifetime of working in the family business in the Midlands and has raised his own family there. Like so many of our candidates he knows his patch and brings real life experience from the patch into the role."

"He is focused on serving his constituents rather than being a political 'yes man'. Surely, this is exactly the breath of fresh air politics needs. I hope the people of the West Midlands get behind him."

Labour's Derek Jamieson has already been backed by the shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper while Conservative Les Jones was supported by the home secretary Theresa May on a recent visit to the West Midlands.

The other candidate is Liberal Democrat Ayoub Khan. The election is expected to have a very low turnout as many voters will be away on holiday.

Roadworks come to end

FOUR weeks of roadworks have come to an end after work overrun by a week.

Hobnock Road in Essington has been shut since last month and had been due to open on August 2.

But National Grid, which carried out the work on what is one of the most important pipelines in the West Midlands, said torrential rain caused trenches to flood and work had to be postponed.

But on Sunday the route was re-opened to the relief of motorists who have had to take a three mile detour to avoid traffic jams.

Charity dance

DANCERS are invited to a ballroom event at Wombourne Civic Centre on September 13, organised by Pelsall Kidney Machine and Research Committee, from 8-11pm. Tickets are £4 from 01922 683159 or 01902 893872, in aid of the renal unit at New Cross Hospital.

Children bubbling over with excitement



Paige Hardiman and, Siaka Bamgura are

BUBBLES, jokes, and inventions are all part of the fun activities that children at a summer holiday club in Walsall have enjoyed during a week's activities.

Every year volunteers at Green Lane Baptist Church host a one-week club for youngsters, aged five to 11, from the neighbourhood as part of efforts to provide more facilities for families in the area.

The club has been running for five years with a different theme based on Bible characters each time.

This year the team have turned the main worship area into an inventors' workshop

and the children are invited to become apprentices to the programme presenters, who are called boffin and brainwave. The material which is devised by Scripture Union is called Mega Makers.

Messages

Joanne Timmis, of the church's holiday club core team, said: "The children are having a wonderful time singing and dancing."

"They have been participating in craft activities around messages of love. We have been looking at some of the more well known stories in St Matthew's gospel in-

cluding Jesus calms a storm and Matthew, a tax collector, going to dinner with Jesus.

"I would like to thank all of the donors and the volunteers who give up a week's holiday to run it."

The church, which is also home to the Mend-It community project, has attracted a £300 grant from the West Midlands Police recovery fund towards the cost of running the holiday club.

Members of the church have also donated cash and kind towards the effort. Most of the money is used to purchase art and craft materials.

Hospital revamp to see more parking brought in

EXTRA parking spaces are to be provided at Walsall Manor Hospital as part of the transformation of the site, it has emerged.

The overall number of spaces is to increase despite existing bays being lost to make way for a new multi-million pound ward. It emerged in the summer that parking would be lost to enable the overspill decant ward with 30 beds to be constructed.

Lifestyle initiatives rewarded

WALSALL College has been recognised with a special award for its growing number of healthy lifestyle initiatives.

Staff achieved the top accolade in the Health Workplace Award Scheme, which is run by Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.

The initiative rewards local businesses for participating in activities that support healthy lifestyle choices to the workforce.

The college has previously achieved bronze and silver levels but has now been presented with gold, the highest recognition.

Recent events have included staff health checks, personal health promotion and a quit smoking service.

Gail Houghton, student finance and support co-ordinator said: "We have been actively promoting health to students for a number of years and this NHS scheme has provided a great opportunity to extend this to staff."

"Previously we had successfully achieved the bronze and silver award so it is great to progress to the gold level."

However, in an application to Walsall Council it states the overall number of bays will rise as they are relocated or created elsewhere. It will see a total of 2,132 available in and around the hospital for staff and patients.

It is expected the new ward will open for December and final planning consent is now required from Walsall Council.

A report from head of planning David Elsworth to councillors says: "The modular building will be sited on part of the visitor car park at the side of the A & E unit on an area of existing car park which is currently allocated to disabled car parking spaces and patient ambulance pick-up and drop-off points adjacent to existing ward entrances."

"This car park currently provides a total of 126 spaces. Following the siting of the modular building and remodelling of the car park there will only be 54 spaces. However, in general there will be an overall increase to the current car parking provision from 2,106 to 2,132 spaces on the whole site."

"The loss of the parking spaces will be relocated around the hospital complex and in particular the use of the former laundry slab at the rear of the site will be utilised and formally marked out to accommodate 87 spaces."

Organ appeal launched at town hall



Mayor Pete Smith, organist, Melvyn Jones, Councillor Doug James and singer Tom Edis at the launch

CAMPAIGNERS are hoping to hear the sweet music of success as they launch a £100,000 fundraising drive to restore a historic town hall organ.

Britain's Got Talent finalist Jean Martyn was the guest of honour at the special launch event held at Darlaston Town Hall. She was joined by Willenhall singer Tom Edis at the event last Thursday.

Fundraisers hope to raise the cash to pay for repairs to parts that create the sound and secure the instru-

ment for future generations. Walsall Councillor Doug James, said: "We are trying to raise £100,000 to ensure the organ remains at the town hall."

"We are planning numerous fundraising events," he said.

The Binns organ at the town hall is one of just two in the entire country.

It is more than 100 years old and was manufactured in Leeds.

Councillor James added: "We are determined to save this organ. It is part of the structure of the building."

Fundraising events planned include a Guinness World Record attempt at the end of October.

A choir competition is also planned at the town hall in November to boost the coffers. There is also a winter music festival some time in December.

Walsall Mayor Pete Smith was among the guests at the event held at the Victoria Road venue.

Campaigners are also hoping to secure Lottery cash to help cover the cost of the works.

Scheme trains up LGV drivers

A WILLENHALL-based food distribution firm has trained up four employees to be Large Goods Vehicle drivers on the company's unique warehouse to wheels driver training programme.

AF Blakemore's training programme was launched in 2008 to provide warehouse employees with the opportunity to train as Large Goods Vehicle drivers.

For the first time this year the programme was offered to staff from Blakemore Foodservice in addition to Blakemore Logistics.

School set to increase in size

A SCHOOL in the Black Country is to increase in size to help it accommodate pupils after plans were approved by the council.

Mayfield Preparatory School in Sutton Road, Walsall, has received the go-ahead to create more room.

A wall separating a classroom and storage room will be removed to increase the amount of space for pupils. The proposals have been agreed by the council under delegated officer powers.

Circus in town at leather museum

A PUPPET show, circus acts and a clown will all be keeping youngsters entertained this Bank Holiday Monday. The entertainment will kick off between 10.30am and 4.30pm at Walsall Leather Museum.

Visitors can have their faces painted and get glitter tattoos as well as take part in arts and crafts.

For details call 01922 652288 or email leather-museum@walsall.gov.uk

Closure during water mains bid

A ROAD will be closed in Walsall during water main works until August 29.

It is being carried out along Hawes Road, off the main Broadway, and the closure came into place on Monday.

A signed diversion route will operate while the scheme is completed by workers on behalf of South Staffordshire Water.

Music madness

OUR House - The Musical, featuring songs from Madness, runs at Cannock's Prince of Wales Centre between September 4 and 6. Shows are at 7.30pm and tickets cost £13. Call 01543 578762 for details.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

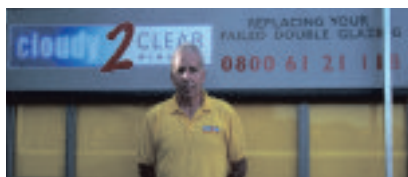
We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

MIRANDA Hart is one of the funniest comedy stars of our time. When you come down to it, she is just about the only purveyor of simple, funny, family friendly comedy around at the moment.

After all, who else is doing mainstream comedy these days? All we get at the moment are the tired old American imports, foul-mouthed public school stand ups and endless dreary panel games populated by the usual circuit of posh boys.

Which makes it all the more depressing is that Miranda Hart has just been announced as the new host of the Generation Game. Let's be honest. There are lots of shows from the 1970s that are well worth reviving, but the Generation Game isn't one of them.

There was only one host who truly made it work, and no, he didn't wear a toupe. Larry Grayson was good. Sharp as a knife, quick witted and entertaining.

Larry Grayson's Generation Game was the perfect warm up to Saturday-night viewing, with Mike Yarwood, Juliet Bravo, or whatever else on afterwards. But take away Grayson, and all you really had was a few middle-aged housewives making a pig's ear of pottery or cake decorating or whatever.

Which is not really much of an improvement on watching oddballs murdering popular tunes of the past decade or so. Or washed-up politicians and minor celebrities trying their hand at the tango. It really is tragic.

Miranda, if you've got any sense, think again. Stick to what you're good at. Writing sitcoms. And leave the Generation Game where it truly belongs. To the past generation.

□□□

AFTER what seems like one of the shortest close-seasons in years, the football season is well and truly back with us.

Normally, this is a time of hope and optimism, of looking forward to the new season. And indeed my team, Aston Villa, made a reasonably solid start, notching up a difficult 1-0 victory away to Stoke City.

So why is it I can't ever remember going into a new season feeling quite so underwhelmed? Well maybe it is something to do with a statistic in a quiz by the Football League Trust last week. Essentially, it asked, if all the teams in the Premier League during the 2012/2013 season were ranked in order of how much they spent on players, how would that differ from the actual league table at the end of the season?

Depressingly, the answer is that one solitary team actually performed better on the field than they did in the transfer window. Or put it another way, it is almost entirely down to money.

Going into the new season at the weekend, which was the lowest-spending side in the Premier League? Aston Villa. Perhaps you will understand my trepidation...



Ellie's baking skills saw her win experts' plaudits



In the pool on her way to win the 200m at Eindhoven



The swimmer poses next to her gold post box

Ellie is making waves as town's golden girl

CHARLOTTE LILLY looks at Ellie Simmonds' rise as an inspirational swimmer and celebrity, from Walsall

SHE is the sports star who can't stop winning.

Paralympic swimmer Ellie Simmonds first found her way into the nation's hearts after winning her first gold medals at the Paralympics in Beijing aged 13.

Then she became the poster girl of London 2012 when she picked up a medal in each of her four events.

And along the way she has been made an OBE and even wowed Paul Hollywood and Mary Berry with her baking skills.

More recently the now 19-year-old excelled herself once again winning three golds and silver at the European Championships in Eindhoven, in the Netherlands.

Ellie broke her own world record to win gold in the SM6 200m individual medley. She finished in a time of three minutes 4.07 seconds, beating her old time by 0.34 seconds.

However, after swimming the 400m freestyle S6 title in five minutes 28.31 seconds, the ever-perfectionist from Aldridge said that while she was 'really happy' to win gold, 'it was a rubbish swim. I'm not happy with the time.'

Her father Steve says: "Ellie wasn't happy with her time because she was hoping to be a little bit quicker."

"I am very proud of her and so is her mum because she is constantly getting better and better every time she takes to the pool."

Walsall's golden girl was the youngest British athlete at the 2008 summer Paralympics in Beijing and after winning two medals she followed the feat with two more golds at the 2012 Paralympics.

Last year she was crowned star baker when she took part in Comic Relief's



Ellie seen after receiving her silver medal at the European Championships

celebrity version of The Great British Bake Off. She whipped up some tasty chocolate orange scones to get plaudits from judges Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood, while her showstopper soldier cake landed her joint top spot with Newsnight's Kirsty Wark.

"She has got bags of energy and she's always on the go and getting involved with something or other," says Steve.

"At the minute she is keeping herself busy training because she gets her A-Level results next week and she is a little nervous about them."

The paralympian is currently studying psychology at Loughborough College and wants to continue with her studies next year. She moved to Leicester from Swansea and began training with new coach Steve Bailey a year ago.

Her father says: "She has been doing really well with Steve but I think she was a little apprehensive at first about taking part," he says.

"It's great having Ellie in Loughborough because it is only down the road."

"She is a real homebody and enjoys spending time with her family." She

has also enlisted the help of comedian David Walliams for a campaign to get people swimming next month. She features in a video giving her own swimming tips for SwimBritain.

The initiative invites people to take part in a four-person relay where each team member swims 250m four times around a specially-designed course.

Walliams, who famously swam the River Thames for charity, has created a video with Ellie to talk about their shared love for swimming.

In the video Ellie says the greatest moment in her sporting career was going to Beijing and taking part in the 2012 London Paralympics. "To take the gold and hear the roar, it was a real buzz," she says.

After the European Championships she will begin training for the World Championships, which will be held in Glasgow next year.

Disappointed

She was forced to watch this year's Commonwealth Games from the sidelines as the competition did not have a swimming category for her. Her father says: "Ellie wasn't able to compete at the Commonwealth Games because it isn't like the Olympics in that it doesn't have her class of swimming."

"She was a little bit disappointed, but the European Championships were what she wanted to focus on more and next year she has got the World Championships in Glasgow which she is looking forward to. After that she will be thinking about Rio and qualifying for the Olympics there."

In 2011, the swimmer was awarded an OBE for services to Paralympic sport and in 2012 a golden postbox was unveiled in her home town of Aldridge.

Royal Mail painted the former red postbox in High Street, Mr Simmonds says: "Ellie loves the post box and still visits it and tells us that whenever we have letters to post we must only use that box."

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

UKIP'S Bill Etheridge learned a rather valuable lesson last week about public speaking – that it's generally a bad idea to say anything that could be construed as positive about Adolf Hitler.

Ironically, it was a seminar on effective public speaking that saw his comments rounded on by his party's critics.

Why the West Midlands MEP decided it would be a good idea to even bring up the Nazi leader at all, let alone suggest budding politicians look at his speaking style, only he can say.

And I've never known any modern politician win a seat by walking up and down during a speech and fixing the audience with his or her stare the way Mr Etheridge was said to have described Hitler.

Far from being 'desperate' for politicians to start talking, as Mr Etheridge says those who listened to Hitler were, these days people are more likely to stand up and walk out or worse.

No-one hangs on David Cameron or Ed Miliband's words. Every time they tweet anything the first response is usually from someone calling them, respectively, Dishface and Beaker.

But has this damaged UKIP? Not particularly, if online reaction is anything to go by. Those who were against UKIP remained resolute on that, taking this story as further evidence that they do not deserve a seat in the Commons.

Yet those who were already part of the so-called 'earthquake' of the European and council elections in May were content with Mr Etheridge's side of the story and rallied round to condemn the Mail on Sunday for its coverage.

Every Black Country council is now under the control of Labour. Walsall's Tories were forced from power in a special meeting called after a by-election gave Labour back the 30 seats it was on after May's local elections.

The death after those elections of leader Tim Oliver left Labour on 29 and meant a rainbow alliance – albeit a rainbow missing any shades of red – of Tories, Lib Dems, UKIP and independent voted for the status quo.

Labour ended up paying to fly three of its councillors back from their summer holidays for the crucial vote.

Politically, it might not be the worst thing for the Tories. They would have continued to get stick for staying in control after being reduced to just over a third of the seats.

And now they get to campaign for the next election against an incumbent Labour party that won't yet have got its feet under the table. At least, that's what I'd say if I were the Conservatives and putting a brave face on it.

Labour has the advantage of being both incumbent locally and in opposition in Westminster. And that's certainly done it no harm in Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley these past few years.

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Theatre is a perfect fit

I WAS interested to read G Sawers' letter 'Hippo is the ideal venue' in the E&S (July 31). I agree with him entirely, it would be a temporary venue for the Civic and yes, live entertainment is popular these days, as in my opinion it always has been.

There is nothing quite like the atmosphere of a live show. I know entertainers and the public are crying out for the Hippodrome to re-open, and be what it always was: a lovely theatre. Of course it can cater for bands easily and remember the big band concerts there on Sunday

evenings? Yes, I have been to the Civic many times and used to go there dancing in my teens. I have appeared in music festivals there, and I have appeared many times at Dudley Hippodrome singing and also at the Grand.

Why in heaven's name can't Dudley Council pull their finger out and listen to people who want this beautiful theatre restored to its former glory, when they would get packed houses? It's so sad to pass it now and then remember how it used to be.

A WILLIAMS, Tipton

Upset as items go missing

I LIVE in a block of flats. The communal garden here I tended when Walsall in Bloom existed for it to win prizes. The garden was a place of serenity, a place for people to meet and enjoy.

My friend, with her osteoporosis, arthritis and a poorly leg had a fall. She fractured her sternum and damaged the tendons and muscles in her shoulder. So whilst helping her, the gardening had to stop.

Returning now to doing some gardening, for all to enjoy, I discovered all of the crock-pots had been emptied of plants and disappeared. Later clearing from around the greenhouse, I discovered just one white bulb bowl. I then realised all of the other bowls had also gone.

Within a week, someone had come to take the last of the bowls. Most times I ride above such sadness. But now the garden is beginning to return to be a place of joy and beauty, but he loss of that one last bowl hurt.

R HAMMOND, Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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UKIP should look to help Tories win

UKIP is a party whose primary aim is to come out of Europe. As it stands, the only possibility for that to happen is if the Conservative Party wins the General Election next year and is in a controlling position to fulfill its promise to hold a referendum in 2017.

A coalition could not deliver, as happened last time. UKIP's position is clear to me, they should not be contestants in the next General Election and they should encourage their supporters to vote Conservative. Any other policy would not be in their best interest.

Then, the Foreign Secretary would have the task of negotiating a new set of circumstances to allow Britain to have its own immigration policy and the return of its sovereign law to be supreme in Britain. Should that be the case, then I believe an 'in' vote would be a possible winner.

All parties should tell us which immigrants would be desirable, as is the case in Australia. A return to a Common Market approach would be acceptable to most of our people. Are our EU partners likely to agree to these measures? The consequences of their rejecting them may well lead to Britain in a referendum voting to quit the EU. It comes down to how they value us as members.

COUNCILLOR JOHN ROCHELLE
Aldridge Central and South Ward, Conservative

Experienced staff are treated badly

I WAS interested to read your article regarding the increase in temporary staffing at the Manor hospital. I can only say that it is no wonder this is happening with the way experienced staff are treated. Soon there will be none of the old school who know what they are doing.

Nurses are now under daily attack from hostile relatives and patients. If you pull the patients up about this or mention it, the hospital start telling you off about it and expect you to suffer the tirades.

S STROUD, Wednesbury

Broadband essential for growth

AN essential part of Walsall's future is how our communities work with government and business to provide high speed broadband. Walsall must work towards making our town one of the best connected urban areas in the West Midlands.

Walsall needs all the help we can get. We are near the bottom in terms of pay, youth employment, new business start-ups, and health profiles. When do we begin to realise that it takes more than new buildings to make a difference. Our huge inequalities may be tackled by improving connectivity and providing super fast broadband.

Connectivity and new technologies must become a priority across Walsall or we will be in reverse on the information super highway. There is no time to waste in pressing both government and business to invest in Walsall's future through investment in this innovation.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
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Chiefs vow to watch spending at Manor

HOSPITAL chiefs have vowed to tackle their spending after racking up a deficit of £1.7 million more than planned within months.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs the Manor Hospital, had a deficit of £2.364m at the end of June, against its target of £645,000, latest figures to the board revealed.

The financial situation was worse than in April and May when it was £1.2m higher than predicted.

The trust has highlighted emergency admission pressures and the need to use temporary staff among the reasons. Bosses say steps are now being taken to tackle the financial issue.

They had only been able to identify £8m of the £10.7m savings needed to make as part of the cost-improvement programme in April, which further compounded the problem.

In a report to the board, chief executive Richard Kirby said: "Our financial position is a key cause for concern at the end of the first quarter."

"Continued use of extra capacity and extra operating sessions to meet demand and a slow start to the delivery of our cost improvement

by Craig Hughes

programme have resulted in a £2.4m deficit at the end of June, which is £1.7m worse than planned.

"All the trust's divisions are working on plans to reduce their rate of expenditure consistent with delivering our objectives for our patients to ensure that we improve our position."

He added that a detailed forecast for the rest of the year was being prepared.

It comes after it recently the bill for agency staff at the Manor rose by more than £250,000 in a month.

It increased to £721,000 as the overall cost of temporary workers shot up to £1.6 million throughout June.

The combined level of expenditure on agency, bank and locum staff has continually risen since the start of the financial year.

Towering trio mark buildings' 50th year



Margaret Williams and Thelma Pilvean, both seated, with Councillor Tina Jukes, Leamore Tenant Management Organisation Chair Jean Stewart, Councillor Chris Jones, Ashley Hall, eight, and Mason Hall, two

AROUND 200 residents on a tenant-run estate in Leamore enjoyed a community celebration to mark the 50th anniversary of their towerblocks. Guests of honour were the three residents who moved in when the homes were officially opened in 1964. And all three have spent a very happy half century on Leamore estate.

Margaret Williams, aged 77, Thelma Pilvean, 76, and Sylvia Josebury, 73, joined in the celebrations in Providence Close recently, when Leamore Tenant Management Organisation (TMO) held a celebration fun day.

All three ladies received flowers to mark the landmark and especially enjoyed a display from Walsall Coronets marching band. The proceedings were kicked off by Councillor Chris Jones and other attractions included rides, bungee jumps and a children's entertainer.

Chair of Leamore TMO Jean Stewart, who has lived on the estate for 23 years, said the day was "absolutely brilliant".

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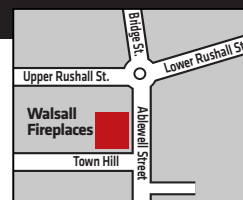
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Church demolition bid goes before planners

Singer to Grace bandstand



Indie folk star Grace Petrie who is performing on August 30

BANDSTAND concerts are being lined up at Willenhall Memorial Park for the upcoming weeks.

Leicester-based musician Grace Petrie will perform on August 30.

She writes indie folk rock songs, plays the guitar and sings with a voice that has been likened to Laura Marling and Kate Nash.

New Washboard Syncepators will

be playing at the park a day later. They will be playing 1920's traditional jazz. On September 7, Enticement will perform.

The blues rock band with a female vocalist will cover artists such as Alanis Morissette, Doobie Brothers, and ZZ Top. For details call Clean and Green Services on 07831 157543 or 01922 654893.

PLANS to demolish a church and replace it with a new-looking building are poised to be given the go-ahead.

The Holy Ascension Church in Bloxwich was earmarked for a revamp three years ago but a revised, down-sized scheme has now been submitted.

The plans have been recommended for approval by planning officers. The application for the Sanstone Road site, which was lodged with Walsall Council, was due to be considered by planners yesterday.

The new building will have rooms for worship, activities and meetings as well as a kitchen, storage space toilets and an office.

A previous application was deferred after concerns were raised about the loss of trees in the area. It was proposed to remove some trees along both side boundaries to accommodate the development.

A report to the planning committee said: "The application was deferred on July 22 for officers to see an amended scheme that moved the proposed building away from the boundaries to retain more trees and also to consider whether there is a need for a tree preservation order."

"Amended plans have been received which move the proposed building 1.6m away from the southern boundary and retains all of the trees on the site. A tree preservation order was served on July 29 which covers seven individual trees and one group comprising 25 young ash trees."

The report also states the position of the proposed building means a large rear garden area will also be retained, with parking for 14 vehicles. The former garage on the site will be used as a storage area.

Neighbours had previously requested for some trees to be removed to improve the quality of light to their gardens.

But the council's tree officer and ecologist recommend that the trees are retained as they offer 'visual amenity and ecological benefits'.



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An Express & Star supplement

Olivia lands Beauty of a role in ballet

Olivia Gudgin, aged nine, from Dance City, Aldridge, who has secured a place in the English Youth Ballet

AN EMERGING dancer has landed a role in a new production, which will take place at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. Olivia Gudgin of Dance City in Aldridge has secured a part in *Sleeping Beauty* which is being performed in September.

The nine-year-old, from Hammerwich, will be a songbird in the show, which is being put on by the English Youth Ballet production. She was encouraged to audition by her dance school which is based in Walsall Wood Road. These took place at the end of May and early June and Olivia has been informed she has earned a role in the production on September 20 and 21. Principal of the Aldridge dance school Tracey Dicken said she had been dancing for around five years and they were delighted she would be involved.

“Olivia wanted to do it and we supported her,” she said. “It is great for the school as well, we are all going to watch.”

Dance City in Aldridge teaches around 140 students with a range of ages from two-and-a-half through to adults. The range of dance which is taught is from ballet, tap, freestyle, modern jazz, street dance, Irish along with gymnastics. It runs Monday to Friday from 4-8.30pm and on Saturday from 9.30am to 3pm.

Care views to be collated

RESPONSES to a consultation surrounding the future of emergency care in Walsall will now be reviewed ahead of a decision being made in September.

Walsall Clinical Commissioning Group held a public consultation which ended last Thursday. The current Walsall Walk-in Health Centre in Market Square is expected to close next April during town centre regeneration work.

The three options for people to consider as part of the consultation are moving to another site in the town centre, relocating to the north of Walsall or merging it with the existing Emergency and Urgent Care Walk-in Centre which is based at the Manor Hospital.

The consultation also asked for views on the long term plans for the future of the urgent and emergency care system over the next three to five years.

Bosses from the CCG said they needed to plan for the future so that they can build an urgent and emergency care system that was a true reflection of the needs of people using services in the borough.

For more information visit www.walsallccg.nhs.uk

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Couple hit out at yobs who raided baby's grave



Jordan Tristram, aged 18, from Walsall with her partner Daniel Hall, 21, of West Bromwich, at the cemetery

A YOUNG couple from Walsall have been left devastated after thieves stole and damaged toys at their son's grave.

A range of items including a scarecrow, windmill and solar-powered owl have been taken from the memorial.

Jordan Tristram said she has seen the grave to baby Harrison targeted three times in just a matter of months. Others are also believed to have been hit, with wooden crosses snapped.

Little Harrison was stillborn in June and was buried at Witton Cemetery, Birmingham, at the end of that month. Since then the items have been taken and flower petals kicked off.

Psychology student Jordan, of The Grove, Yew Tree, Walsall said she and partner Daniel Hall, aged 21, had been left distraught by the yobbish actions. The 18-year-old said the first time was just a week after the funeral and she could not understand why anybody would commit such actions.

"They have stolen things, broken things and generally vandalised things," she said. "It is devastating

when you come to visit. It is a section of the cemetery for babies. There are no words to describe the people who can do it. Who can come in a cemetery and steal and just go over kicking things over?"

Birmingham City Council said: "We deplore the actions of those who undertake such mindless acts, which cause a great deal of distress for the family and friends of the deceased. It is understandable that people want to place items to remind them of their loved ones, but due to the actions of thieves we advise items of value are not left on cemetery grounds."

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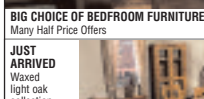
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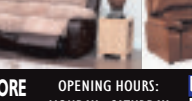


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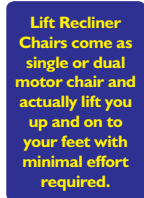


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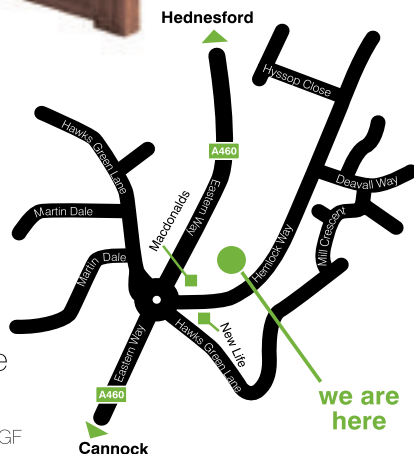
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Life-saving boost for pub with machine



Community response manager Andy Jeynes, charity fundraising co-ordinator Glenys Bleakley, manager of The Longhorn Esther Bennett, and senior barmaid Becky Wilkins

A PUB is ready to offer life-saving first aid after regulars and staff clubbed together for a £1,000 defibrillator. The Longhorn in Walsall raised the cash 12 months after a customer collapsed from a heart attack and was given CPR.

Workers and customers organised a series of activities at the Sutton Road pub after the man, in his 40s, suffered a heart attack and had to be taken to hospital. He has since recovered. Residents put their weight behind the efforts by attending quizzes, supporting raffles and bingo nights to raise the cash needed to buy the machine.

Landlady Esther Bennett said: "We put on events to raise most of the money. We have quizzes twice a week. People love it. We are registered with West Midlands Ambulance Service as a defibrillator location. If anybody needs assistance in the vicinity we will be able to provide it."

The team hosts events over the bank holiday in a bid to raise £2,000 that will be split between Walsall St Giles Hospice, Acorns Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support. There will be a live swing and dinner night tomorrow, Friday, and band Freeze play on Sunday. Longhorn's Got Talent is on Monday and entrants should call in to register.

Police alert as workers con results in lost cash

BOGUS workmen have stolen thousands of pounds from victims in Walsall, prompting police to warn people to be on their guard.

Two homes in Pelsall and Caldmore were targeted in distraction burglaries last week and thieves got away with more than £3,300 - with the majority of the cash stolen from a man in his 80s.

By Lisa O'Brien

The burglaries are being linked with another report from a resident in Little Bloxwich. The man in his 80s, of Fordbrook Lane, Pelsall, arrived home from the shops to find a man on his driveway saying he owed him £300 for work carried out to some tree roots.

The pensioner went inside to get the cash and then went out to inspect the roots, leaving the man alone in the house.

The pensioner realised that £3,000 had been stolen from a tin in his bedroom after the man had left. In a separate incident, a woman in her 50s was at her home in Little London, Caldmore, when two men arrived claiming to be from the council and told her they had received complaints about her garden.

They asked to come inside to plug in some electrical equipment, before stealing £340 from her wardrobe. Police said the incidents were both being linked to another report from a resident living in Bakewell Close, Little Bloxwich.

In that instance, nothing was stolen from the address but two men had arrived at the property and demanded cash for carrying out work to tree roots.

DC Jenny Aston, from Bloxwich Police Station, said: "We are linking all three incidents. We'd urge people to keep an eye out for these men and not to let any unannounced callers into their homes - especially if they can't show you any identification."

"People should also avoid keeping large quantities of cash in their homes."

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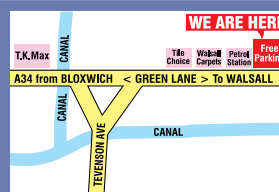
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All a-bout Marty with top wrestler at centre

MORE than 300 wrestling fans turned out to watch American star Marty Jannetty take to the stage in the Black Country.

The WWE favourite, first name Fredrick, performed in world title contests and headlined pay-per-view events alongside Shawn Michaels as 'the Rockers.'

He beat his former partner in 1993 for the Intercontinental title, regarded as the organisation's second biggest belt. Now 54, the tag team specialist visited Darlaston's All Active centre to pair up with promoter Matt Powell, in character as Mad Dog Maxx, to take on the tandem of Johnny Thunder, aka car insurance salesman Jamie Firkin from Darlaston and Joey Syxx, who by day is Willenhall welder Mike Jones. Both are 25.

The American star and his partner were able to secure a popular victory. And Mr Jannetty said he still enjoys getting in the ring: "It's still all I live for, that may be sad to some people but it's the best thing in the world to me. There's nothing better."

"It kind of keeps you young because you get to be a kid in the ring, which is great when you are 54. And I am still reasonably healthy, apart from a few injuries here and there."

Mr Powell admitted it was an honour to team up with one of his childhood heroes, having gone all out to book Jannetty on one of his shows after previously bringing in WWE alumni Juventud Guerrera and Ultimo Dragon.

He said: "I am very pleased, seeing all of the people who came along enjoying themselves so much made it so worthwhile." The Midland Association for Amputees and Friends were also winners on the night, with the Darlaston All Active Centre donating a share of the proceeds to that charity.



Mad Dog, or Matt Powell, in action



The wrestling pair with their belts



Wrestler Marty Jannetty in the ring



Marty Jannetty, with Mad Dog Max

Start date for centres scheme

WORK on an ambitious £24 million project to build two new leisure centres in Walsall will start early next month.

Sod-cutting ceremonies will take place at both sites on the same day before demolition work gets under way. The authority is replacing dated

centres at Leamore Park in Bloxwich and Oak Park in Walsall Wood. Members gave unanimous backing to the scheme at a special meeting last week.

Council Leader, Councillor Sean Coughlan, said: "It's extremely good news that work will be starting in a few weeks time."



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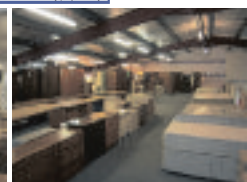
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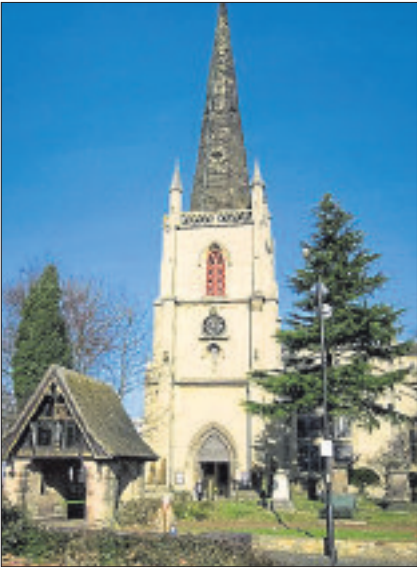
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Repairs on historic church roof begins



The famous spire of St Matthew's Church which dominates the Walsall town centre skyline

WORK to make vital repairs on the roof of Walsall's oldest church as part of a £250,000 scheme is now under way.

Metal thieves stripped lead from the roof of St Matthew's Church in 2011, leaving a huge repair bill for the historic building which is celebrating its 800th anniversary year.

English Heritage has awarded the church a grant of around £125,000 towards the cost of carrying out repairs to the roof, and fundraisers have almost raised the same amount to fully fund the scheme. Scaffolding has now been erected at the town centre church and the work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

There is a £30,000 shortfall but volunteers at the church said a string of fundraising events had been lined up. Church warden Diane Edlin said: "This project means everything. Without a secure, dry roof we can't operate."

She said a number of fundraising events have been lined up. Sheffield Male Voice Choir will be performing in a concert at the church on September 27 to mark the end of the 800th anniversary celebrations.

Tickets for the 7.30pm show will cost £8.

There will be a songs of praise event on September 21 at 2.30pm, when funds will be collected. To donate to the appeal or to book a tour, call 01922 626039.

Degrees of success as college in courses bid

WALSALL College has become one of the first further education colleges in the region to offer full degree level courses.

The college has teamed up with Birmingham City University to offer honours degree level courses for the first time in its history. Three new one-year top-up degrees are being launched from September.

By Lisa O'Brien

"From September students will be able to study in our world-class learning environment and progress from a number of our HNC programmes all the way through to degree level."

Principal and chief executive, Jatinder Sharma said: "We know what employers want from our graduates and we use our close links with industry to make sure that's precisely what we give them."

"With the cost of university still on the rise, studying locally has never looked so attractive and we expect our small classes and personalised tuition to really appeal to students of all ages." Visit www.walsallcollege.ac.uk for details.



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Arts centre lines up comedy and music



The Black Country Show, with compere Doug Parker

THE popular Black Country Show will be staged in Walsall next month. The show on September 17 at Forest Arts Centre will feature compere and comedian Doug Parker, along with vocalist Maggie O'Hara.

She is a vocalist with experience of working in theatre, television and cabaret.

Keyboard player James Maddison will lead a chorus of traditional foot-tapping and sing-along tunes. Tickets cost £6 for the show at 1.30pm.

Walsall Operatic Society will also stage Bite-Size Broadway at the Leamore venue on September 19 and 20.

The show will feature favourites from musicals old and new. Tickets cost £10, or £5 for under 16s.

The shows are at 7.30pm and there will be a 2.30pm Saturday matinee. Call the box office on 0845 111 2898.

Chiefs for council to get cut in allowances

COUNCILLORS in Walsall are to take a pay-cut in a bid to save the cash-strapped authority almost £100,000 a year, it has emerged.

The now controlling Labour party is planning to get rid of the increased special responsibility allowances that were introduced last year. The cut will apply to the council leader Sean Coughlan, the deputy and other members of the cabinet.

It will also see chairs of statutory committees such as scrutiny meetings get a cut in the allowances they receive. An increase was controversially introduced by the council in 2013 after being voted through by the Conservatives.

By Craig Hughes

will now be produced to full council next month where a new policy for pay would be put forward for formal approval.

Council leader, councillor Coughlan, is due to see his special responsibility allowance fall from £26,850 to £23,582. He says the cash saved will go towards protecting services.

Councillor Coughlan said: "Our view is while you are reducing budgets in areas, you are reducing staff and expect them to do more, it is only right. We always said that when you are asking staff to do more for less then it is only right that as councillors, we do the same."

He added that a report

Bosses at the time of the rise said the recommendations were forward by an independent panel following a review. The change in stance comes after the Labour wrestled back control of the council after 14 years. Three members of the party even flew back from holiday to ensure they had enough people to back a motion to remove Conservative councillor Mike Bird and appoint councillor Coughlan in his place. The council faces having to make £84 million cuts over the next four years.

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As Summer comes to an end and the dark nights start to fall upon us, it's the ideal time to consider a new fireplace and ensure your home is warm and cosy for winter - and you'll find no shortage of inspiration at a fireplace showroom in the centre of Aldridge.

Since relocating to Aldridge over six years ago, the company seems to be growing from strength to strength, having also recently refurbished their Bromsgrove branch too. "We have both been surprised, and pleased, with how the business has progressed" states Matt. "In this current climate, people are choosing not to move but, stay and improve their home, and a fireplace will add significant value to their home. Aldridge Fireplaces is a family-owned business with the emphasis on a relaxed, personal service and offers a unique service on all suites and packages, the stylish showroom features some exclusive marble and Portuguese limestone displays, solid wood and stone surrounds."

Our experienced sales staff are also able to offer packages to suit all ages and styles of home, and offer quality products at affordable prices, as well as manufacture bespoke fireplaces to the correct size for each customer if required. In addition to this there is currently FREE FITTING on offer when you purchase a fire with a suite. So

unlike many other companies you will not be hit with a bill of around £250 to fit your fire and fireplace, we will cover the cost!!!. This bank holiday we will be carrying out one of our biggest sales yet! on Friday 22nd, Saturday 23rd August and Monday 25th August where we will be offering some amazing deals. "We feel August bank holiday is an opportunity for families to get out as this is the last of the year" states Dan. "And with this in mind we wanted to offer our customers something special and decided for this weekend only to offer 50% off any fire when purchased with one of our quality suites."

"The free fitting has proven to be very popular" adds Matt. "We now have a qualified Gas Safe and Hetas accredited team of engineers who work for the company and our customers can therefore be confident that all work carried out is completed to the relevant industry standards." Matt comments "Most fireplace showrooms in the market will offer a card from a third party installer, well that's where we differ as all our works are carried out and guaranteed by the company therefore giving you added satisfaction and peace of mind."

Staff will visit each home if required to ensure the correct specification of fireplace is fitted. The choice of fires and fireplaces is a very personal one, so with us visiting each

customer's home personally we can offer advice as to which ones would look the best.

"In the past we have celebrated our anniversary with different offers" adds Matt. "However this is one of our best yet 50% is a massive saving. Not only are we offering our customers FREE FITTING on all suites when purchased with a gas or electric fire we will give you a 50% discount off any of our gas or electric fire range (this excludes balanced flue and power flued specialist fires and any manager's specials). I don't believe anyone else in the area are currently offering such an amazing deals this bank holiday."

With all this in mind this has never been a better time to purchase your new fireplace from us and with the added incentive of 50% off your gas or electric fire when purchased with any suite, this is an offer not to be missed.

This is an offer not to be missed and will start Friday 22nd August 10am - 4:30pm, Saturday 23rd August 10am - 4:30pm Sunday 24th August Closed and reopen Monday 25th August 2013 10am - 4pm for 3 days only!!

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Canal boat trips offered to families



Skipper Bob Ratcliffe from the National Community Boats Association, with centre users ready to get on board

NARROWBOAT trips are being offered to families by a charity. Two canal boats a day will be setting off from the Stan Ball Centre in Bloxwich.

Morning trips at 9.30am take people along to the Finger Post pub in Pelsall and from 12.30pm the boat travels through Walsall to Reedswood. The Stan Ball Centre is owned by Bloxwich Community Partnership.

Chief executive Eleanor Boycott said: "We secured funding for the trips through Walsall Housing Group. The narrowboat belongs to Walsall Council. It's a lovely way to see Walsall by canal."

Around 30 people can fit onto the boat for each trip. Tickets are £8, including lunch. Tickets are £10. For more details call 01922 403351. The Stan Ball Centre is aimed at the over 50s and is a hub for adult learning.

Roadworks push 1.6m drivers on toll route

AN extra 1.6 million cars and lorries have used Staffordshire's toll motorway, new figures revealed, boosting revenues as drivers sought an alternative to M6 hold-ups.

But Midland Expressway, which runs the 27-mile long M6 Toll, still racked up losses of more than £30 million, caused by interest and repayments on the £900m cost of building the road eight years ago.

The toll motorway saw a surge in use last year, due to the continuing work taking place on the M6, which is causing delays to traffic, and a free month offered to vehicle fleets run by members of the Road Haulage Association.

Midland Expressway's annual financial report, just filed with Companies House, reveals that toll revenue in 2013 rose 13.5 per cent to £65.9m. Traffic increased 12.1 per cent to 14.65 million vehicles during the year, up 1.6 million in 2012.

In his strategic report, chief executive Tom Fanning said: "Traffic volumes and toll revenues for the year benefited from roadworks in place on the competing M6 which ran throughout 2013 until completion in April 2014."

by Simon Penfold

But he warned that an improved M6 'may provide significant challenges' to the M6 Toll in the longer term.

In the meantime, the acceleration of the Highways Agency's Smart Motorway project widening and improving the M6 is likely to boost traffic for the toll road until the work is completed in 2015.

The toll road company also is hoping that it will benefit from long term expansion of the Smart Motorway programme between Birmingham and Manchester. As well as the M6 roadworks, the toll road also benefited from flat fuel prices and a growth in the UK economy.

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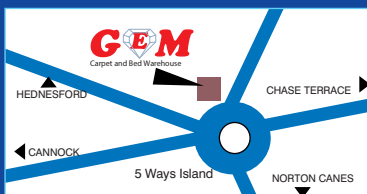
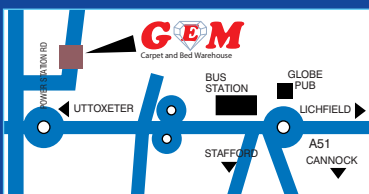
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Saddlers in meet and greet with their fans

FOOTBALL fans got to meet their heroes as Saddlers stars' took time out for a signing session at the Banks's Stadium.

Walsall FC players Richard O'Donnell, James O'Connor and James Baxendale posed for photographs and chatted with supporters at the club shop.

It was organised to coincide with the school summer holidays to give younger fans the chance to see some of the first team squad.

One young fan even christened a teddy after one of the star's Bax the Bear as scores of supporters gathered for the afternoon. Keeper O'Donnell said they were pleased to be able to meet and mix with some of the Saddlers' followers.

"It has been good for all the players that are here to interact with the fans.

Attended

"We had the open day last week which was a big hit. It is important to interact with fans as much as we can, they pay good money to come and watch us home and away. This is my second year and they have always been spot on with me. From our point it is not much effort and if it makes the kids happy it makes you feel good."

Club secretary Daniel Mole said the meet and greet was well attended and they were pleased to see fans come to get autographs, have their pictures taken and speak with members of the team.

"We thought with it being the summer holidays it is a good chance for all our young supporters to come and see the players," he said.

"It is a massive part of what we do. The supporters are the lifeblood of the football club.

"The players are happy to meet the supporters."



Young fans are snapped with the stars



Joshua Rainer, with Richard O'Donnell



Meeting the fans, back, Richard O'Donnell, James O'Connor, James Baxendale, with front Reece Allsopp, aged 12, Lleyton Lowe, seven, Lucas Meeley, 13

Head hits out at iPads theft

RESIDENTS are being urged to come forward with information after a Wilenhall school was hit with a bill for more than £1,000 worth of damage after thieves broke in to steal iPads.

The headteacher of Shepwell School, Stephen Pritchard-Jones said the most vulnerable young people in the borough are being deprived. He says the theft has put school trips and new books at risk. A crowbar was used to

prison open a window at the building in Bilston Lane causing it to be replaced. The 15 new iPads worth £3,000 will not be replaced this year due to budget constraints. The school provides education for young people unable to attend their mainstream schools due to medical, social and emotional needs.

Anyone with information on the theft, which happened at around 6.20pm on July 17, can call 101.

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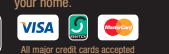
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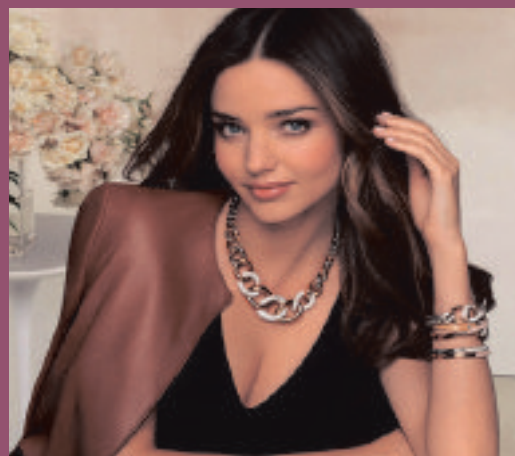
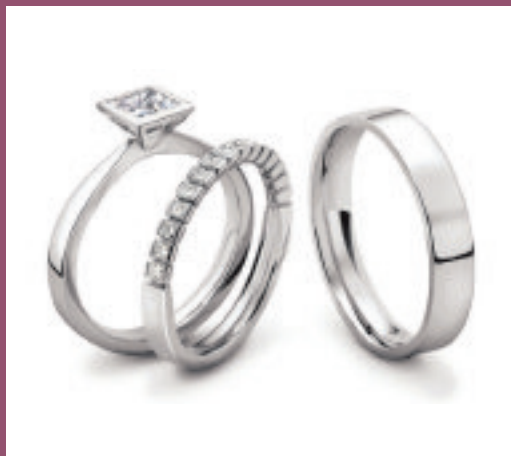
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A BUSY bus service has been extended after councillors and passengers voiced concerns.

The 33 bus service between Walsall and Rugeley will now run every 20 minutes during the daytime Monday to Saturday, instead of every half-hour.

Operator Arriva Midlands has launched the new timetable after councillors and passengers called for improvements to reliability and frequency.

The service travels through Pelsall, Clayhanger, Brownhills, Norton Canes, Cannock and Hednesford. Evening services will remain unaltered.

Councillor Barbara Cassidy, who represents the Brownhills area on Walsall Council, said: "I am really pleased that Arriva Midlands has responded to the concerns we raised on behalf of many residents."

Poppy run helpers call

VOLUNTEERS are needed for the annual Aldridge Poppy Run and Walk which is being held in Walsall on October 25.

The event will take place at Aldridge Airport and Hay Head Wood. The five-mile run starts at 10.30am and costs £10 to enter.

The four-mile walk will be at 10.45am and costs £5 to enter. Medals and T-shirts will be given to those who finish the run.

Proceeds will go to the Royal British Legion.

FOCUS ON PELSALL

Hospital bosses' pledge on help for disabled visitors

DISABLED visitors to Walsall Manor Hospital are being advised to ask for help after 60 parking spaces were closed in order to make way for a new ward.

Several disabled parking bays have been temporarily lost while the £4.7m development goes on. One disabled motorist Peter Atkins has complained he had to park further away from the ward where his sick wife Margaret, aged 74, was being treated.

by Deborah Hardiman

my wife was discharged last week other people have told me that it's still chaotic at busy times."

Colin Plant of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust said: "We recently started works on our new 30 bed decant ward. This unfortunately means that we have had to close some of our visitor parking spaces at the back of the hospital for the duration of the works. There are a small number of priority parking spaces still available at the rear of the site but these are allocated on a first come first served basis and can fill up quickly.

"For patients or visitors who require assistance to get around the hospital site, we have a number of volunteers available to help who can be accessed at the main reception desk."



Jake Armstrong-Frost, tending to plants at the Queen's Sandringham Estate

Jake makes big impact at royal site

A GREEN-FINGERED student from Pelsall has been leading the way as a young horticulturalist, working at the prestigious Sandringham Estate, the Queen's Norfolk retreat.

Second year horticulture diploma student at Rodbaston College in Penkridge, Jake Armstrong-Frost, developed a keen interest in historical gardens and applied for a Historic and Botanic Garden Bursary Scheme (HBGBS), funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and supported by the Royal Horticulture Society.

After being accepted, Jake has found himself in his dream job, tending to plants and produce with their royal link.

He paid tribute to help and advice he received from South Staffordshire College staff.

"Throughout my time there my lecturers were supportive and helpful, with special thanks going to my progression coach Chris Murphy, an inspiration to our group.

"My time there helped me secure the opportunity and gave me a head start in my career."

Pizza the action helps Amber to celebrate



Amber Porterfield age five

A RESTAURANT in Walsall helped a youngster who is in need of a life-changing operation celebrate her sixth birthday with a pizza party. Amber Porterfield, of Pelsall, has the condition spastic diplegic cerebral palsy and had uses a walking frame and a wheelchair. With the help of Pelsall Village School where she attends, Amber's family launched an appeal to raise £60,000 for her to be treated at Cerebral Palsy Centre at the St Louis Children's Hospital, in Missouri, in July next year.

If successful the surgery will help her to walk unaided. Frankie & Benny's at the Crown Wharf Shopping Park, Walsall, threw a pizza party for the youngster recently.

The six-year-old and her friends learned to make their own pizzas and staff, including mascot Sketch, sang happy birthday. On Saturday, staff also took part in fundraising for the youngster in a 100 mile bike ride, starting and finishing in Wolverhampton.



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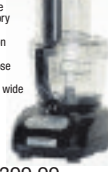
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Cool and laid back – Lee Ford



Soulful – Leah Jaine Astbury



Concentration – Jon Hubbard



Sound problems – Sophie Watts

Baddies' Boogie
Newhampton Arts Centre
THE Newhampton Arts Centre in Whitmore
Reans, Wolverhampton once again played host
to the latest collection of talented acoustic mu-
sicians from around the Midlands under the
banner of Baddies' Boogie. The bill opener was
singer/songwriter Lee Ford from Stafford.

Ford is a pretty cool, laid back singer and gi-
tuitarist who performs his own ballads. His songs
and guitar technique are solid and impeccable;
simple but effective and he has an honest and
likeable voice. His performance was followed by
Walsall's Leah Jaine Astbury another singer gi-
tuitarist. Astbury has a good strong voice which
has a definite clarity and you get the sense that with
her seemingly effortless singing she has unlim-
ited vocal power to call upon.

Astbury did do a lovely cover of Sam Smith's
Stay With Me where she showed she definitely

LIVE REVIEW

By Danny Farragher

has soul and there is a good range in there. She
hit the high notes without any effort and could
have probably held them until doomsday.

The former Shire Oak and Walsall College stu-
dent went out with a pretty emotive version of
Bob Dylan's much covered Make You Feel My
Love. Also from Walsall, although, in complete
contrast, was Jon Hubbard who certainly has
some personality with his cheeky chappie stage
persona. He speaks with a broad, local accent and
his singing style seems to be a mixture of many
influences which range from sounding like one
of the Gallaghers to a weird Jaifakecan sound.

Hubbard started off with Walking to the End
of the World and it did have that Britpop sound

to it. He does have a lively, catchy way of per-
forming which is infectious.

Next up was Andy Bowater aka The Rambling
Man, possibly because he never stays still while
performing, not only does he swing from side to
side to the beat of his playing but he also repeat-
edly walks up and downstage.

Bowater's was definitely the most unusual act
of the night. With a percussionist/vocalist and an
electric guitarist, whom he never introduced, he
produced a sound which was something akin to a
set produced by the BBC radiophonic workshop.

Unfortunately, the sound problems which
dogged the night were clearly evident with the
act finishing off, Midnight Sun, which is Sophie
Watts from Stourbridge and Kidderminster's
Jack Cleaver. In their opener Cleaver's guitar
playing just blew Watts' singing off the stage. It
was not Cleaver's fault, he is a damn good gi-
tuitarist but the sound engineering was not good.

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The pair of coaches which began life in the Black Country, now to be restored



The interior of one bus with most of its seats intact



A close-up view of the almost indistinguishable destination blind on the bus

Museum experts gearing up to restore buses to former glory



The former route name of the yellow bus

FOR years they had been left to rot in an old barn hundreds of miles away, but now a pair of vintage buses manufactured in the Black Country have returned to be restored to their former glory.

The coaches came off the production line at the Guy Motors Ltd factory off Park Lane in Fallings Park, Wolverhampton in 1959 and were bought by Heath Hayes firm Harper Brothers to carry passengers on day trips to the coast.

But after 11 years of service they were sold to a scout group in Northern Ireland in 1971 and redeployed to ship youngsters from their headquarters in Limerick to scout camps around the country.

Three years ago it emerged the 52-seat coaches were stranded in a barn on the outskirts of Dublin in dreadful condition, their once gleaming distinctive green and yellow paintwork peeled away and tarnished by

MEMORY LANE

Report by Peter Madeley

rust, polished wooden interiors now sullied and engines dead to the world.

But thanks to the generosity of their former owner and an unnamed benefactor the buses are back on home soil, having arrived at the Aston Manor Road Transport Museum (AMRTM) in Aldridge, after being loaded onto large flat-bed lorries and transported via ferry across the Irish Sea.

It is believed there are only nine coaches in existence featuring the Guy Motors chassis coupled with bodywork produced by Loughborough firm Willowbrook Ltd.

They are now set to undergo a refurbishment project manned by a crew of up to 25 volunteers, with bosses at the museum hoping to have both vehicles in full operational order by 2017. Martin Fisher, chairman of the AMRTM, said he first found out about the buses in 2011, but doubted the museum would ever be able to afford the high cost of

buying them and funding their transportation back to the Midlands. It is expected the cost of refurbishing could be £60,000. "The owner in Ireland originally planned to use them as part of his novelty wedding business but nothing came to pass, so he advertised them for sale," he said. "They were on the market for a while but no-one bought them. We wanted to bring them here but there was no way we could afford it at the time."

It looked like the project would never get off the ground, but then the owner donated them to the AMRTM - on the proviso that the museum could stump up transport costs to bring them back to the UK.

A mystery donor came forward. Mr Fisher added: "It cost more than £3,000 to get them here and there's no way we could have done that without the donation. The benefactor has asked to remain anonymous but we are extremely grateful." The coaches are now in storage where they are being assessed by the restoration crew before work begins in the coming months.



A flatbed lorry seen arriving with a bus after its long journey



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CHOICE



Peter Capaldi

Doctor Who (BBC1, 7.50pm)
New series. Having briefly appeared at the end of last year's Christmas special, The Thick of It star Peter Capaldi goes on his first adventure as the Time Lord, taking over from Matt Smith. When he arrives in Victorian London, he finds a dinosaur causing havoc in the Thames, as well as a spate of deadly spontaneous combustions. Will Clara's friendship forged with the previous Doctor survive as they embark on a terrifying mission into the heart of an alien conspiracy? Sci-fi drama, co-starring Jenna Coleman, Neve McIntosh, Dan Starkey, Catrin Stewart, Peter Ferdinando, Paul Hickey, Tony Way, Maggie Service, Brian Miller, Ellis George, Mark Kempner, Graham Duff, Peter Hannah and Paul Kasey.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. 11.30 Food & Drink. 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix - Qualifying. Coverage from the Spa-Francorchamps circuit (Start-time 1.00pm). 2.20 Live Challenge Cup Rugby League Final. Castleford Tigers v Leeds Rhinos (Kick-off 3.00pm). 5.20 The Big Bang Theory News; Weather. 5.40 Pointless Celebrities.

6.30 Tumble. The remaining celebrities tackle trampolining and rhythmic gymnastics with a twist in the third week of the competition. They're hoping to impress the judging panel - Louis Smith, Nadia Comaneci, Craig Heap and Sebastian Stella - and the two lowest-scoring contestants then face The Vault, before one of them leaves the show. Plus, girl group the Saturdays perform a medley of their biggest hits. Alex Jones hosts.

7.50 Doctor Who. New series. Having briefly appeared at the end of last year's Christmas special, The Thick of It star Peter Capaldi goes on his first adventure as the Time Lord, taking over from Matt Smith. When he arrives in Victorian London, he finds a dinosaur causing havoc in the Thames, as well as a spate of deadly spontaneous combustions. Will Clara's friendship forged with the previous Doctor survive as they embark on a terrifying mission into the heart of an alien conspiracy? Sci-fi drama, co-starring Jenna Coleman.

9.10 Casualty. Zoe is feeling low about her 40th birthday. Cal steals Ethan's idea. Jeff thinks he is being followed, while Rita's behaviour starts to worry her colleagues. Last in the series.

10.00 The National Lottery Live.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Everton v Arsenal at Goodison Park and Chelsea v Leicester City at Stamford Bridge; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.15 BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix - First Practice. 8.15 Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix - Second Practice. 9.55 Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix - Third Practice. 11.10 Coast. 11.30 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. 12.00 David Lean: Talking Pictures. 12.40 Film: In Which We Serve. (1942) Second World War drama, starring Noel Coward. 2.30 Escape to the Country. 3.00 Flog It! 4.00 Final Score. 5.30 Triathlon.

7.00 Proms Extra. Jazz singer Clare Teal chats about her role in the Battle of the Bands concert, and Katie Derham is also joined by conductor Sascha Goetzl and composer Mark-Anthony Turnage.

7.45 Dad's Army. A night at the cinema and a black-market toasted cheese sandwich make Mainwaring have an unusual dream in which he is Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo.

8.15 Ancient Egypt: Life and Death in the Valley of the Kings. Egyptologist John Fletcher looks at the lives of ordinary Egyptian citizens 3,500 years ago. In the first of two programmes, she explores the conditions of their tightly packed houses, how they dressed and what they ate. Joann also examines their love of poetry, their enthusiasm for interior design and what it was like to work in the Valley of the Kings. (R)

9.15 Andrew Marr's Great Scots: The Writers Who Shaped a Nation. The life of Walter Scott, the prolific novelist and poet who wrote swashbuckling tales of romance and derring-do. However, Andrew Marr reveals his lesser-known side as a political figure who believed in a proud Scotland inside the UK. Scott brought George IV to his home country and, swathing him in tartan, created an enduring myth of Scotland as a place of romance populated by a brave race doing brave deeds, all clad in kilts.

10.15 QI XL. Stephen Fry presents an extended version of the quiz, and poses some unusual questions about jelly, jam and juice to Jo Brand, Liza Tarbuck, Sue Perkins and Alan Davies. (R)

11.00 Film: Insomnia. (2002) Christopher Nolan's thriller, starring Al Pacino and the late Robin Williams.

12.50 Film: The Shattering Sky. (1990) 3.05 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITY: Pat & Stan. 6.10 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.20 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.25 Dino Dan. (R) 6.50 Animals. (R) 6.55 Animals. (R) 7.05 Sooty. (R) 7.15 Neds & Monsters. (R) 7.25 Neds & Monsters. (R) 7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 8.55 Chowder. (R) 8.10 Chowder. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Hungry Sailors. (R) 10.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 11.25 ITV News; Weather. 11.35 Film: Colombo: No Time to Die. (1992) 1.20 Film: The Mighty Ducks. (1992) Ice-hockey comedy, starring Emilio Estevez. 3.25 Weekend Escapes with Warwick Davis. (R) 3.55 Film: Murder on the Orient Express. (1974) Agatha Christie mystery, starring Albert Finney and the late Lauren Bacal.

6.20 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 You've Been Framed! Top Tens. Comedian Harry Hill unveils some of his favourite comical clips, featuring shocks and surprises, madcap pets and dramatic falls, as he narrates a selection of viewer-submitted videos. (R)

7.45 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. Comedienne Jo Brand, former England rugby union player Ben Cohen and Dragons' Den investor Kelly Hoppen take turns on the arcade-style token-pushing machine. Dropping counters down a choice of four chutes, the celebrity contestants have to knock piles of them off a moving shelf - and the more they collect, the better their chances of scooping the £20,000 prize for a charity of their choice. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. Last in the series.

8.45 All Star Family Fortunes. EastEnders' June Brown (Dot Branning) and Blue singer Simon Webbe team up with their relatives in a bid to win £30,000 for their chosen charities. Vernon Kay hosts. (R)

9.45 Film: Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi. (1983) The rebel heroes set out to rescue Han Solo before a final decisive battle with the forces of the evil Empire. Sci-fi adventure sequel, with Mark Hamill and Harrison Ford. Continues after the News.

10.45 ITV News; Weather.

11.00 Film: Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the Jedi. (1983) Concluded. 12.30 Jackpot247.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Close. 6.05 Trans World Sport. 7.00 Tri Liverpool. 7.55 The Morning Line. 8.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.25 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.50 Frasier. (R) 10.20 Frasier. (R) 10.50 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.15 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.40 The Simpsons. (R) 12.10 The Simpsons. (R) 12.40 Heston's Great British Food. (R) 1.40 Channel 4 Racing. Coverage of live racing from York and Goodwood. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Double-glazing salesman Richard Deeping hosts the final party in Leicester, and hopes to impress with his culinary prowess before the winner is announced. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.05 The Restoration Man. George Clarke follows Vanessa Ford Robbins and partner Nick Huddy's project to restore a Victorian grade II listed house on the boundaries of a country estate in Surrey. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud follows the progress of Brighton couple Daren Howarth and Adi Norjue, who want to build an earth-sheltered home from recycled materials, based on ideas pioneered in New Mexico in the 1970s. However, land prices and planning laws have forced the pair out of England and into Brittany. To keep costs down, Daren and Adi enlist the help of unskilled volunteers to work on the house, in exchange for teaching them the construction techniques. (R)

9.00 Film: Red Lights. (2012) Premiere. A famous blind psychic returns to the public arena 30 years after his career ended in scandal and a suspicious death. A paranormal investigator ignores his mentor's warnings and tries to expose the spiritualist as a fraud, a task that sets him on a dangerous path. Thriller, starring Clive Owen, Murphy, Sigourney Weaver and Robert De Niro.

11.15 Psychopath Night. Documentary going inside the minds of psychopaths, finding out how to spot them and counting down the top 10 mentally deranged movie characters, as selected by experts. (R)

1.05 The Last Leg. (R) 1.50 Homeland. (R) 2.45 Hollyoaks. 4.55 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Access. 10.00 Hercules the Human Bear. (R) 10.55 The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) 11.55 Extreme Nightmare Neighbours Next Door. (R) 12.55 Film: White Fang 2: The Myth of the White Wolf. (1994) Adventure sequel, starring Scott Bairstow. 3.00 Film: The Wizard of Oz. (1939) Musical fantasy, starring Judy Garland. 5.00 Film: Michael Jackson's This Is It. (2009) Documentary following the singer in rehearsal.

7.10 ABBA @ 40: The Abba Years. Documentary exploring the history of the Swedish band and the careers of Agnetha Fältskog, Björn Ulvåus, Benny Andersson and Anni-Frid Lyngstad after their split in 1982. The film charts their rise to fame after coming together as a band and winning the Eurovision Song Contest in 1974 with Waterloo, and the success in the years that followed, in which they sold 360 million records. Featuring interviews with all four members, and a look behind the scenes at the musical Mamma Mia! that shows Björn and Benny working with the theatre team. Featuring contributions by Bono and Pete Waterman. Shown as part of Sing-a-long Saturday. (R)

8.05 ABBA @ 40: Live at Wembley. A recording of the Swedish band in concert during their six-night residence at London's Wembley Arena in November 1979. Featuring performances of hits including Voulez-Vous, Knowing Me, Knowing You, Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! (A Man After Midnight), SOS, Take a Chance on Me, Dancing Queen and Waterloo. Shown as part of Sing-a-long Saturday. (R)

9.05 5 News Weekend.

9.10 Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of another day in the celebrity-filled house, including a chance to see the events leading up to the first eviction and what happened afterwards. Did the result go down well with all the remaining contestants, or did arguments break out in the small hours? (R)

10.10 Rob Brydon Live.

11.10 Autopsy: Michael Jackson's Last Hours. (R) 12.10 Celebrity Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. 1.10 SuperCasino. 3.10 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 5.15 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.40 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Greg & Jen @ Reading 8.00 Foster the People & Imagine Dragons @ Reading 9.00 Jake Bugg & Bombay Bicycle Club @ Reading 10.00 Arctic Monkeys @ Reading 11.00 Family Guy 1.40 American Dad! 2.20 Sexy Beasts 2.50 Russell Howard's Good News 3.50 Close

BBC Four
7.00 Human Planet 8.00 Tales from the National Parks 9.00 Inspector Montalbano 10.50 Boogie Fever: A TOTP2 Disco Special 12.20 Queens of Disco 1.20 Sounds of the 70s 2 Soul - Keep on Keeping On 1.50 Human Planet 2.50 Tales from the National Parks 3.50 Close

ITV2
11.15 Take Me Out 12.25 Dinner Date: Australia 1.20 You've Been Framed Rides Again! 2.25 You've Been Framed! Full Throttle 3.00 Film: Nancy Drew (2007) 5.30 You've Been Framed! 6.35 Film: King Kong (2005) 10.00 Film: Hostage (2005) 12.20 Film: State of Play (2009) 2.45 Kylie Minogue: The Hot Desk

ITV3
11.05 Film: Carry On Jack (1963) 12.55 Polyantha 3.00 A Touch of Frost 7.05 Lewis 9.00 Foyle's War 11.00 Bomb Girls 12.00 Film: Colombo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case (1977) 1.25 World Kitchen 2.15 ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
12.40 Film: Destry (1954) 2.35 Film: Nevada Smith (1966) 5.10 The Motorbike Show 6.15 Storage Wars 7.15 Film: Casino Royale (1967) 10.00 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana 11.05 Film: Boogeyman (2004) 12.50 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana 1.55 Police, Camera, Action! 2.20 Cheers 2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen

E4
11.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 12.30 The Big Bang Theory 1.30 Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) 3.25 The Big Bang Theory 4.25 Melissa & Joey 5.30 Made in Chelsea NYC 6.35 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 7.05 The 100 8.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Die Hard 4.0 (2007) 11.35 The Big Bang Theory 12.30 Virtually Famous 1.20 Almost Royal 1.50 How I Met Your Mother

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CHOICE



Matthew McNulty

The Mill (Channel 4, 8pm)
When the strikers form a line outside the gates, William enlists a band of men to break the stand-off, joined by John's special constables. A violent confrontation follows and Daniel is arrested - but calls for the workers to keep fighting. While Esther is attending the union meeting in Manchester in his place, Susannah looks after baby Billy, who has become critically ill. Elsewhere, more information comes to light about Peter's background, but before he can learn the truth, Hannah's sickness takes a turn for the worse. Starring Kerrie Hayes, Lauren McQueen, Connor Dempsey, Mark Frost, Joshua Isherwood, Ewan Phillips, Katherine Rose Morley, Justin Salinger, Barbara Marten, Holly Kenny, Sope Dirisu and Matthew McNulty.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.40 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00 BBC News. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Live Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix.** Coverage from the Spa-Francorchamps circuit (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30 Escape to the Country.** (R) **4.30 The Great British Bake Off.** (R) **5.30 Songs of Praise.**

6.05 Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. On a jungle expedition in Guyana, Steve Backshall encounters an ant with the world's most painful sting and explores below the water of the rainforest rivers. Last in the series.

6.35 BBC News: Regional News.

7.00 Nature's Miracle Orphans. Part one of two. Presenters Ellie Harrison and Max Hug Williams follow orphaned baby animals as they make steps to return to the wild. Ellie travels to Australia to meet three koalas called Tilly, Puddles and Danny, who were rescued from the roadside where their mother had been killed - Danny needs around-the-clock care and is building up his strength with night-time games of chase. She also meets a tiny wallaby called Neil whose carer Stella is worried may die from stress if they can't find him a companion. Elsewhere, wildlife cameraman Max is in Costa Rica where he gets acquainted with Neville, a five-month-old three-toed sloth, who has suffered from pneumonia since she was rescued. He follows wildlife manager Sam at Kids Saving The Rainforest as she tries to teach the baby sloth to climb trees and learn to go back to the wild.

8.00 Countryfile. John Craven and Anita Rani explore the foodie culture of Herefordshire, meeting farmer Simon Cutter and his pure-bred cattle and a botanist extracting natural goodness from fields.

9.00 The Village. Grace becomes increasingly impressed by Bill's left-wing ideas as polling day approaches. John makes a success of the dairy farm and Clem finds the perfect match for Edmund.

10.00 BBC News

10.25 Match of the Day 2.

11.35 Match of the Day at 50. (R)

12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.40 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Countryfile. (R) **7.00 Alan Titchmarsh's Garden Secrets.** (R) **8.00 Gardeners' World.** (R) **8.30 The Beechgrove Garden. 9.00 The Football League Show.** (R) **10.20 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.50 Coast. 12.15 MOTD2 Extra.** With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00 Food & Drink.** (R) **1.30 Sweet's Made Simple.** (R) **2.00 Flog It! Trade Secrets. 2.30 Live Athletics.** The British Athletics Grand Prix.

7.00 Formula 1: Belgian Grand Prix - Highlights. Suzi Perry introduces action from the Spa-Francorchamps circuit, where the 12th meeting of the season took place. This was the first race since the summer break, which came after the Hungarian Grand Prix, and Daniel Ricciardo was aiming to repeat his thrilling win at the Hungaroring, while Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg resumed their duel for the title. With commentary by Ben Edwards and David Coulthard, and analysis by Eddie Jordan.

8.00 Dragons' Den. More people bid to win funding for their projects from the panel, including a returning entrepreneur with an outdoor space-saving device, a golfing duo with a new take on the traditional tee, and a designer who has flipped the conventional umbrella on its head. The Dragons also come face to face with a fellow multimillionaire and the Den is filled with children's teepees. With a fair amount of game playing, gambling and bargaining taking place, will anyone manage to secure a deal? Evan Davis presents.

9.00 James May's Cars of the People. James explores how aspiration and new wealth inspired some of the greatest vehicles ever made and also unveils his choice of the ultimate people's car. Last in the series.

10.00 An Adventure in Space and Time. Drama written by Mark Gatiss telling the story of how sci-fi series Doctor Who was first brought to the screen in November 1963. Starring David Bradley and Brian Cox. (R)

11.30 Film: The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. (2005) Sci-fi comedy, starring Martin Freeman and Bill Nighy.

1.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.05 Holy City.** (R) **3.05 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITY: Pat & Stan. **6.10 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.20 Pat & Stan.** (R) **6.25 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan.** (R) **6.50 Animals.** (R) **6.55 Animals.** (R) **7.05 Sooty.** (R) **7.15 Nerts & Monsters.** (R) **7.25 Nerts & Monsters.** (R) **7.40 Mr Bean: The Animated Series.** (R) **7.55 Chowder.** (R) **8.10 Chowder.** (R) **8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 May the Best House Win.** (R) **10.25 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **11.20 ITV News; Weather. 11.30 River Monsters.** (R) **12.30 Long Lost Family.** (R) **1.30 Film: Columbo Goes to the Guillotine.** (1989) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.30 Midsomer Murders.** (R) **5.30 Tipping Point.** (R) **6.35 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.45 ITV News; Weather.**

7.00 Come On Down! The Game Show Story. Bradley Walsh looks at the role played by contestants in creating game-show history across the decades. He meets the team whose bizarre answers featured in one of the most memorable editions of Family Fortunes, and hears how Bulls-eye brought a new level of frustration to participants when Jim Bowen showed them what they could have won. He talks to people famous for their losing TV appearances, including the teacher labelled "Disastermind" by the press and the founding member of the Deal or No Deal 1p Club. Bradley also joins forces with three pros to take on all-comers in a pub quiz. With contributions by Ant and Dec, Nick Knowles, Richard Osman, Vernon Kay and other small-screen stars.

8.00 The Zoo. The giraffe herd at Whipsnade has a new arrival in need of urgent help - the calf has problems with its legs and is unable to suckle from its mother. Last in the series.

9.00 The Great War: The People's Story. A young woman (Claire Foy) seizes the chance to work in arms factories, a country vicar (Brian Cox) writes about men leaving for war and a servant (Amy Morgan) falls for a soldier.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Kids with Cameras: Diary of a Children's Ward.

11.15 The Cube. A sales assistant and a police officer try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000. (R)

12.10 The Store.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35 British F3. 7.05 Outlaw Triathlon. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **9.00 Frasier.** (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** (R) **1.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **2.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **2.25 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **2.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **3.25 Film: Runaway Bride.** (1999) Romantic comedy, with Julia Roberts and Richard Gere. **5.40 Deal or No Deal. 6.35 Channel 4 News.**

7.00 How Britain Worked. Engineering enthusiast Guy Martin celebrates the workers of the Industrial Revolution by recreating some of the 19th century's most impressive technical achievements. Along the way he focuses on the unsung heroes of the time - the men, women and children who worked 14 hours a day for little pay to create extraordinary marvels that changed the country for ever. He begins by overhauling a steam locomotive currently in use on the Severn Valley Railway, repairing its boiler, safety valves and one of its two-ton wheels. He also says some track using the same methods as the notorious "navvies" - the notorious, hard-living labourers who put together Britain's entire railway infrastructure by hand. (R)

8.00 The Mill. As tensions escalate during the strike, a violent confrontation leads to Daniel's arrest. Susanna looks after Esther's baby, who has become critically ill. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: The Cold Light of Day. (2012) Premiere. A man on a sailing holiday in Spain discovers his family have been abducted. His search for them leads him to learn that his father has been leading a double-life as a CIA agent, and has stolen top-secret information - which the kidnappers will stop at nothing to obtain. Thriller, starring Henry Cavill, Bruce Willis and Sigourney Weaver.

10.50 Film: Skyline. (2010) Sci-fi thriller, with Eric Balfour and Scottie Thompson.

12.35 First Time Farmers. (R) **1.30 The Million Pound Drop.** (R) **2.25 The Hoarder Next Door.** (R) **3.20 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent.** (R) **4.15 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. 4.30 Gordon Ramsay's Home Cooking.** (R) **5.00 Deal or No Deal.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Pappa Pig. 6.05 Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15 Abby's Flying Fairy School.** (R) **6.25 Bubble Guppies.** (R) **6.35 The Mr Men Show.** (R) **6.50 Chloe's Closet.** (R) **7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too.** (R) **7.10 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **7.25 Make Way for Noddy.** (R) **7.35 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures.** (R) **7.40 City of Friends.** (R) **7.55 Little Princess.** (R) **8.10 The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky.** (R) **8.20 Olly the Little White Van.** (R) **8.25 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **8.45 Rupert Bear.** (R) **9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.15 Jelly Jamm.** (R) **9.30 LazyTown.** (R) **10.00 Highland Emergency.** (R) **10.30 Police Interceptors.** (R) **11.25 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.25 Police Interceptors.** (R) **1.25 Film: Beverly Hills Chihuahua 2.** (2011) Premiere. Comedy, starring Marcus Coloma. **3.05 Film: Holes.** (2003) Family adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf. **5.15 Film: A Cinderella Story.** (2004) Romantic comedy, starring Hilary Duff and Chad Michael Murray.

7.05 Film: Legally Blonde. (2001) A seemingly dizzy teenager is heartbroken when her boyfriend dumps her because he thinks she is not intelligent enough to help his political career. To prove him wrong she enrolls at Harvard, but finds herself out of her depth as other students do their best to humiliate her. Comedy, starring Reese Witherspoon, Luke Wilson, Selma Blair, Matthew Davis and Victor Garber. Edited for language.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt.

10.00 Film: Under Siege. (1992) A veteran US Navy Seal working on a battleship as a cook leaps into action to liberate the vessel from terrorists. Action adventure, starring Steven Seagal and Tommy Lee Jones. Edited for language.

11.55 Film: Point Break. (1991) An undercover FBI agent infiltrates a Californian surfing gang to investigate a spate of armed robberies. Kathryn Bigelow's thriller, starring Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze.

2.10 SuperCasino. 3.10 Woman on the Rampage: Killing Spree. 4.00 House Doctor. (R) **4.25 Make It Big.** (R) **5.15 Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.40 Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Maverick Sabre & Clean Bandit @ Reading. 8.00 The Kooks & You Me at Six @ Reading. 9.00 Our World War. 10.00 Family Guy. 10.45 Siblings. 11.15 Cuckoo. 11.45 Blink 182 & Disclosure @ Reading. 12.45 American Dadi. 1.30 Sexy Beasts. 2.00 Siblings. 2.30 Cuckoo. 3.00 Impractical Jokers. 3.30 Sexy Beasts. 4.00 Close

BBC Four

7.00 The Sunday Prom: Elgar's Cello Concerto. 9.05 Definitely Dusty. 10.05 Film: Cafe de Flore (2011). 12.00 The Kate Bush Story: Running Up That Hill. 1.00 Kate Bush at the BBC. 2.00 The Joy of Abba. 3.00 Definitely Dusty. 4.00 Close

ITV2

11.55 America's Got Talent. 2.30 Ultimate You've Been Framed. 3.00 Film: Horrid Henry: The Movie (2011). 5.25 Film: Beethoven (1991). 7.15 Film: Jurassic Park III (1991). 9.00 Film: Miss Congeniality 2: Armed and Fabulous (2005). 11.15 Film: The Butterfly Effect (2004). 1.35 The Big Reunion 2014. 2.30 You've Been Framed. 3.55 Teleshopping. 5.55 ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

6.00 Wycleffe. 1.00 Film: Thoroughly Modern Millie (1967). 3.50 Film: Summer Holiday (1963). 6.00 Film: Columbo: Now You See Him (1976). 8.00 Lewis. 10.00 Film: City of Angels (1998). 12.20 William and Mary. 1.20 Polyantha. 3.05 ITV3 Nightscreen. 3.40 Emmerdale. 4.00 Close

ITV4

6.00 BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights. 7.00 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana. 8.00 Ray Mears' Close Encounters. 9.00 Film: Spy Game (2001). 11.35 Hell on Wheels. 12.35 River Monsters. 1.40 Movies Now. 1.50 Cycling: Vuelta a Espana. 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen. 4.00 Close

E4

12.30 Made in Chelsea NYC. 1.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. 2.30 Suburgatory. 3.00 The Mindy Project. 3.30 New Girl. 4.00 The Big Bang Theory. 5.00 The 100. 6.00 Rude(ish) Tube. 7.00 Film: Honey, I Shrank the Kids (1989). 9.00 Made in Chelsea NYC. 10.00 Almost Royal. 10.35 The Big Bang Theory. 11.35 Virtually Famous. 12.25 Rules of Engagement. 1.00 Close

Film4

11.00 Wycleffe on the Wind (1956). 1.00 Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008). 2.50 Black Knight (2001). 4.40 Edward Scissorhands (1990). 6.50 27 Dresses (2008). 9.00 The Haunting in Connecticut (2009). 11.00 Raging Bulls of Steel Justice. 11.15 R100 (2013).

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MONDAY

The Sorcerer's Apprentice, BBC1, 1.30pm
A wizard living secretly in modern-day New York vows to prevent his mystical enemy from taking over the city. Realising that he is unable to complete the task alone, he recruits an ordinary teenager to be his assistant, teaching him to master the magical arts. Fantasy adventure, starring Nicolas Cage, Jay Baruchel and Alfred Molina. (2010)

TUESDAY

Seventeen and Missing, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A mother with clairvoyant abilities is distraught when her teenage daughter goes missing. She finds herself plagued by traumatic visions of the girl's abduction, which might provide the vital clue to rescuing her, and turns to her estranged husband for help in tracking down their child. Thriller, starring Dedee Pfeiffer, Matthew Harrison and Tegan Moss. (2006)

WEDNESDAY

Our Children, Channel 4, 1.10am
A woman marries a Moroccan immigrant and together they move into the home of his adoptive father. She is left feeling increasingly isolated living a household in which they have become trapped, driving her to contemplate killing her five children. Fact-based drama, starring Emilie Dequenne, Tahar Rahim and Niels Arestrup. In French and Arabic. (2012)



The Invention of Lying, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

THURSDAY

The Hunted, BBC1, 11.35pm
A traumatised special forces soldier regresses to a feral existence in an isolated area of woodland. Increasingly unhinged, he starts to pick off anyone who strays into his path, prompting the mentor who trained him in hand-to-hand armed combat to track him down before the authorities take drastic action. Action thriller, with Tommy Lee Jones, Benicio Del Toro, Connie Nielsen and Mark Pellegrino. (2003)

FRIDAY

The Invention of Lying, ITV, 10.40pm
In a world where everyone always tells the truth, a failed documentary writer learns how to lie. Since no one else knows what deception is, his most ludicrous inventions are taken at face value, making him a huge success - and ultimately leading to him starting his own religion. Comedy, starring Ricky Gervais and Jennifer Garner. (2009)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Series continues to prove a novel success

A year ago, Channel 5 brought us one of the most enjoyably bonkers fantasy sagas of the year. Based on the novel by Stephen King, *Under the Dome* was one of those glorious 'What if?'-style dramas popularised in *The Twilight Zone*.

In this case, the 'what if?' being: a hemispherical force field. It appeared out of nowhere and trapped the residents of small American town Chester's Mill. Once comparisons with *The Simpsons Movie* faded, UDT became must-see viewing for viewers who don't take their fantasy TV too seriously.

It didn't just raise questions such as 'What created the dome?' or 'Was it impassable?', but 'Would rain pass through the force field?' and 'What happened when the food and resources ran out?'

It didn't hurt that there was eye candy for both sexes, from hunky, shady ex-soldier Barbie (Mike Vogel) to flame-haired investigative reporter Julia Shumway (Rachel LeFevre).

And as every good drama needs a larger-than-life villain, *Breaking Bad*

veteran Dean Norris proved perfect as politician/used car dealer 'Big Jim' Rennie.

Okay, some Stephen King purists may have argued that it's not as good as the 2009 source novel, but given the fact most King-inspired TV strands have been a let down, it proved more compelling than most.

Series one of *Under the Dome* was bursting with memorable moments, from a cow sliced in half when the hemisphere first appeared, to the man whose pacemaker exploded in his chest. It was the show where anything could, and probably would happen.

Admittedly it wasn't perfect, but it kept many fans coming back for more week after week, and series two looks like it could be equally compelling. It picks up directly from where the first series left off.

Chester's Mill is now bathed in a blinding white light as the Dome starts to change. It becomes opaque, and starts emitting a regular electromagnetic pulse.

Pink stars have fallen in lines as a result of Julia throwing the egg into

the lake, and Barbie is awaiting execution on the scaffold after Big Jim accused him of murder.

Of course the ongoing success of this series has meant Mike Vogel's own star is definitely on the rise.

"What I love about this show, it's very real characters reacting to a very unreal event," he explains. Mike is no stranger to working in Blighty, having made a film with Jamie Murray called *The Deaths of Ian Stone*. If UDT's schedule allows, he'd love to return to the UK for a new project. "I love England and I love English actors," he explains. "There is a richness and a tradition in the craft that you get with English actors that I don't see a lot with my American counterparts. It's always refreshing to me."

New 'Dome' cast additions should help make this second run equally refreshing.

Look out for former ER star Sherry Stringfield as Big Jim's 'late' wife Pauline, while country music superstar Dwight Yoakam plays the delightfully named town barber, Lyle Churnley.



Mike Vogel stars in *Under the Dome*, Monday, Channel 5, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Scotland Decides: Salmond versus Darling, BBC2, 8.30pm

As the people of Scotland prepare to vote in next month's referendum on whether to break away from the rest of the UK, Glenn Campbell chairs the second debate between First Minister Alex Salmond and Better Together leader Alistair Darling. The SNP leader and the former chancellor of the exchequer will lay out their competing visions for the future of Scotland in front of a specially invited audience at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow.

Gadget Man, Channel 4, 8.30pm

New series. Richard Ayoade returns with the show exploring the world of technology, from the everyday to the extraordinary. In the first edition, he takes on the worst of the British climate, braving a hurricane in a wind tunnel with the help of Tim Vine to assess the best in gust-busting gadgetry. He's also joined by Marcus Brigstocke at the Hemel Hempstead Snow Centre to pressure-test cold-weather technology.

TUESDAY

Super Senses: The Secret Power of Animals, BBC2, 9pm

Biologist Patrick Aryee and physicist Helen Czerski

continue their exploration of the world of animal senses by investigating sound - from the deepest rumbles to the highest squeaks - using specialised technology to detect noises beyond the range of human hearing. They reveal how alligators use low-pitch sounds to make the water around them 'dance', show what it is like to be a bat and see with echolocation, and convert a classic camper van into a giant speaker to conduct the ultimate hearing test for a herd of elephants.

WEDNESDAY Addicts' Symphony, Channel 4, 11pm

Okay, so you'd never have thought the words 'addict' and 'classical music' go well together in the same sentence, but composer and musician James McConnell is about to enlighten us as to why they do. You see, he's examining music's many transformative uses by bringing together 10 classical musicians who have all been affected by addiction - and they will be performing alongside the London Symphony Orchestra. Every musician is trying to break free of addiction - some have been sober for years, while others only a few months - and James, a recovering alcoholic himself,

wants to prove just how big a part music can play in an addict's recovery.

THURSDAY Who Do You Think You Are?, BBC1, 9pm

Irish comedian Brendan O'Carroll, best known as his alter ego Mrs Brown and star of the BBC sitcom *Mrs Brown's Boys*, tries to find out the truth about his grandfather's murder, and attempts to uncover the identities of the men responsible. Shopkeeper Peter O'Carroll was killed in October 1920 at the height of the Irish War of Independence, and the Dublin-born actor begins his journey of discovery with only a newspaper article from the time and the words 'shot during the curfew' from Peter's gravestone.

FRIDAY Micky Flanagan: Back in the Game, Channel 4, 9pm
Cockney comic

Who Do You Think You Are? Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

Mickey Flanagan came to his stand-up career relatively late in life. After working variously as a porter at Billingsgate Fish Market, a dishwasher, a window cleaner and a furniture maker, he tried his hand at comedy aged 35. It didn't take him too long to find his feet, and now he's one of the scene's biggest names. In fact, last year's *Back in the Game* tour was the biggest comedy event of 2013, playing to more than half a million people across the UK and Ireland. The show featured his best material to date, and for anyone who's only ever seen him on the myriad panel shows that seemed to help launch his television career, this is a must-see.

Big School, BBC1, 9.30pm

New series. Return of the classroom comedy, starring David Walliams. When Miss Postern sets up a careers workshop, it seems her slogan 'Which Way Now?' applies as much to her as it does to the pupils, not least because the guest speaker is her old teacher-training colleague - and now best-selling children's author - Fenella Forbes (played by Morgana Robinson). Meanwhile, her relationship with Mr Church has taken a downward turn after a misunderstanding over a date. On the upside, the future is looking bright for one member of staff, as Mr Martin prepares to launch a pop career. With Catherine Tate, Daniel Rigby and Philip Glenister.

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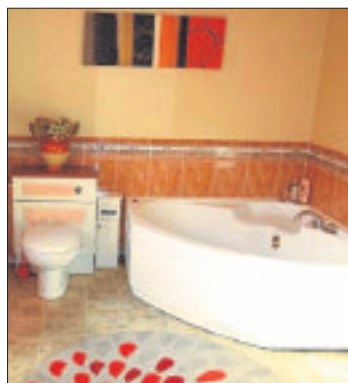
AN attractive and extended traditional semi-detached home on Sneyd Lane, Essington, Wolverhampton lies on a premier road.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £239,950.

With gas central heating, double glazing, a large driveway and delightful rear gardens it has an entrance hall with a stained glass window to the porch, an understairs cupboard and a tiled floor, an extended lounge with a feature fireplace and French style doors to the conservatory, dining room with a feature fireplace, breakfast kitchen with space for a range cooker, a dishwasher and a tiled floor, utility, side lobby with a tiled floor, WC, four bedrooms and a spacious bathroom, plus a superb landscaped rear garden with lawned and block paved areas. Call Skitts on 01902 631151 or visit www.skitts.net



Home renovated to a superb standard



TOTALLY renovated in 2008, this delightfully situated and presented detached house in Chester Road, Aldridge, Walsall comes with an appealing rear garden with a yard for secure storage or parking. It is for sale through Edwards Moore at £350,000.

Having electric heating combined with wood burning stoves and double glazing the property has a dining hall, inner lobby, an impressive through lounge with French doors, a feature chimney breast with a wood burning stove, WC, breakfast kitchen with wood grain units electric oven, fridge and freezer, breakfast bar and tiling, utility, four bedrooms (master en suite), a particularly spacious and impressive bathroom.

For further information contact Edwards Moore on 01922 621411 or visit www.edwardsmoore.co.uk



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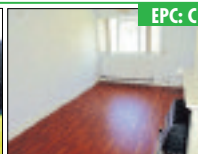
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**BASSETT CLOSE
WILLENHALL**

• Spacious mid terraced property
• Three good size bedrooms
• Fitted kitchen
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• Shower room & separate wc
• Rear garden

£550 PCM



EPC: C



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EPC C



**WORCESTER ROAD
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• Off road parking

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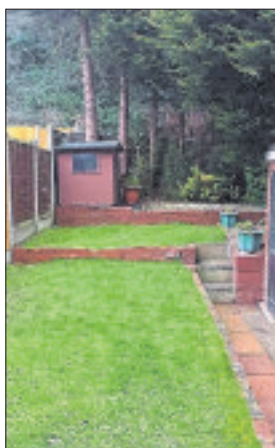
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Wolverhampton Road

- A fully refurbished 3 bed mid terrace
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NEW £495 pcm



Darlaston Road

- A refurbished 3 bed end terrace property
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- Fitted kitchen with cooker
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- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
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£700 pcm



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- Rear garden EPC rating E

£525 pcm



Broadway West

- A traditional 3 bed semi detached
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating throughout
- Driveway, EPC rating D


£500 pcm



Kingsley Street

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- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating D

£495 pcm



May Street

- A fully re-furbished 3 bed mid terrace
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- New fitted kitchen with cooker
- Upstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- DSS accepted EPC rating F

£495 pcm



Lister Street

- A 3 bed semi detached property
- 2 spacious reception rooms
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Downstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Rear garden and DSS accepted

£495 pcm



Love Lane

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- 1 spacious reception room
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- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Guest WC, EPC rating D

£425 pcm



Stroud Avenue

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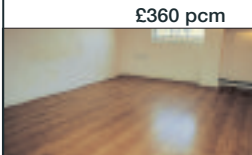
£415 pcm



Walsall Road

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- 1 spacious reception room
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- DSS accepted EPC rating E


£360 pcm



Church Street, Darlaston

- A 1 bed 1st floor apartment
- 1 Good size reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Family bathroom with shower
- Gas central heating
- DSS accepted

£350 pcm



Gough Street

- A 1 bed ground floor apartment
- 1 spacious reception room
- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- EPC rating E

£350 pcm




Bradford Street

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- Stylish family bathroom with shower
- Luxury en-suite shower room
- Garage, Driveway EPC rating D

£550 pcm

LET
Similar properties required



Broadstone Avenue

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- Modern fitted kitchen with cooker
- Pleasant bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Ground floor

£525 pcm

LET
Similar properties required




Greadier Street

- A well presented 3 bed semi detached property
- 1 spacious through lounge
- Fitted kitchen with side utility area
- New upstairs bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating throughout
- Driveway, Guest WC, DSS accepted

£500 pcm

LET
Similar properties required




Old Masters Close

- A modern 2 bed end terrace property
- 1 spacious reception room
- Stylish fitted kitchen/diner with cooker
- Upstairs family bathroom with shower
- Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Parking, Rear garden EPC rating C

£395 pcm

LET
Similar properties required



Sutton Road

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The Chronicle

Thursday, August 21, 2014

<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>WELLAND GROVE, W'HALL Three Bed Semi. Comprises Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Conservatory, Family Bathroom. Garden & Driveway To The Front. Enclosed Garden To Rear. Great First Time Buy</p> <p>£127,950</p>	<p>NEW INSTRUCTION</p> <p>ARNHEM ROAD, WILLENHALL Three Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, WC, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing G/C/H, Off Road Parking, Extensive Gardens To The Rear.</p> <p>£155,000</p>	<p>NEW INSTRUCTION</p> <p>RIVERBANK RD, WILLENHALL Immaculate Four Bed Semi, Comprises Of Entrance Porch & Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, En-Suite Shower To The Master & Bathroom. D/G, G/C/H, Garage, Gardens Front & Rear.</p> <p>£199,995</p>	<p>NEW INSTRUCTION</p> <p>HOUGH WAY, ESSINGTON Immaculate Five Bed Detached Comprises Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, W.C., Two En-Suites & Family Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear Driveway & Garage.</p> <p>£325,000</p>				
<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>HAWKSWELL DR, W'HALL One Bed End Town House Having Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, Off Road Parking And Enclosed Garden, Ideal First Time Buy! MUST VIEW</p> <p>£82,500</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>TREETOPS DR, WILLENHALL One Bed First Floor Flat. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bedroom & Bathroom. Also Having Full UPVC Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. Outside There Is A Garage In Separate Block.</p> <p>£67,500</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>GIPSY LANE, WILLENHALL Three Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing. Close To Willenhall Town Centre Giving Access To Good Local Amenities, Schools and Transport Links. Great Investment Property.</p> <p>£74,995</p>	<p>REDUCED</p> <p>TEMPLE ROAD, WILLENHALL Three Bed Semi Entrance Hall, Guest W.C, Fitted Kitchen & Through Lounge, Family Bathroom And Separate W.C. UPVC D/Glazing & G/Central Heating. Front And Rear Gardens. CASH OFFERS, INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY.</p> <p>£75,000</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>CANNOCK RD, NEW INVENTION One Bed Mid Town House. Comprises Of Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom And Bathroom. Outside There Is A Gravelled Garden, Allocated Parking Space And Garage In A Separate Block.</p> <p>£83,000</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>SQUIRES GROVE, NEW INVENTION Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment. Superbly Presented Accommodation Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Two Good Sized Bedrooms With En-Suite To Master And Family Bathroom.</p> <p>£99,950</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>REDWOOD WAY, COPPICE FARM Immaculately Presented One Bed Ground Floor Flat Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Modern Fitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Rear Garden And Driveway.</p> <p>£89,995</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>CHAUCER AVE, SHORT HEATH Two Bed Mid Terraced Property Having Entrance Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Side Storage Area, Two Double Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, C/Heating And Enclosed Rear Garden.</p> <p>£89,995</p>
<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>WELLINGTON COURT, W'HALL Modern One Bed Duplex Apartment Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom. D/Glazing, Storage Heating, Gated Parking. Great First Time Buy Or Investment Opportunity.</p> <p>£92,500</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>POPLAR AVE, BENTLEY Three Bedroom End Town House. Comprises Of Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner, W.C And Shower Room, Double Glazing And Gas Central Heating. Front & Rear Gardens. Great F.T.B Or B.T.L</p> <p>£95,000</p>	<p>VIEWING ADVISED</p> <p>BLENHEIM RD, SUMMER HAYES Immaculately Presented Two Bed Ground Floor Flat Comprising Of Entrance Porch/Utility Area, Lounge, Kitchen, Hall, Two Bedrooms And Modern Bathroom. Outside There Is An Enclosed Rear Garden & Further Lawn Area To The Side. Must View.</p> <p>£95,000</p>	<p>NEW INSTRUCTION</p> <p>LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL Three/Four Bed Mid Terraced. Comprises Of Lounge, Dining/Sitting Room, Kitchen & Family Bathroom, Three Bedrooms On The First Floor, Attic Room/Fourth Bedroom, D/Glazed And G/C/H, Rear Garden.</p> <p>£95,000</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>COLTHAM RD, SHORT HEATH Well Presented Three Bedroom Mid Terraced House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Dining Room, Ground Floor Bathroom And Three Bedrooms. Off Road Parking To The Front And Garden To The Rear.</p> <p>£100,000</p>	<p>REDUCED</p> <p>HARPER STREET, W'HALL Two Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, Shower Room, D/Glazing, G/Central Heating. Outside Are Two Allocated Parking Spaces, Enclosed Rear Garden.</p> <p>£100,000</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>BENTON CL, WILLENHALL Three Bedroom Mid Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Fitted Kitchen, Lobby With Both W.C And Storage Cupboard And Family Bathroom. Also Benefits From UPVC D/Glazing And Central Heating.</p> <p>£102,000</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>WALKERS FOLD, SHORT HEATH Two Bed Mid Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge/Diner And Modern Shower Room. Outside Are Two Allocated Parking Spaces & Rear Garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN!</p> <p>£107,500</p>
<p>NEW INSTRUCTION</p> <p>CASTLEBRIDGE RD, WEDNESFIELD Three Bed Mid Town House Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Lounge, Generous Conservatory, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Bathroom & Separate WC, D/G, G/C/H. Gardens To Front & Rear. Viewings Recommended.</p> <p>£109,950</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>TILDESLEY DRIVE, W'HALL Two Bed Mid-Terraced Comprises Of Entrance Porch, Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory, Fitted Kitchen With Integrated Appliances, Family Bathroom, D/G, G/C/H, Enclosed Rear Garden. G/R/P</p> <p>£109,995</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>VICTORIA STREET, WILLENHALL Three Storey End Town House Comprises Entrance Hall, W.C, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner. Two Bedrooms & Family Bathroom To The First Floor, Master Bedroom & En-Suite On Second Floor, D/G, G/C/H. Garden To The Rear.</p> <p>£109,995</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>THE CRESCENT, WILLENHALL Modern Two Bed Semi Having Lounge With Open Plan Staircase, Kitchen Diner, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Block Paved Driveway To The Fore Allowing Off Road Parking For Two Vehicles And A Private Enclosed Rear Garden.</p> <p>£110,000</p>	<p>VIEWING ADVISED</p> <p>HAWTHORNE PLACE, BENTLEY Two Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Lean-to With W.C & Outhouse. Family Bathroom To First Floor, D/Glazing & C/Heating. Gardens To The Front And Rear.</p> <p>£115,000</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>STUBBINGTON CL, PORTOBELLO Two Bed Detached Bungalow. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge, Sunroom, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms Both With Fitted Wardrobes And Family Bathroom. UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Detached Garage And Driveway. Good Transport Links To Wolverhampton, Willenhall, Bliton & Walsall</p> <p>£125,000</p>	<p>ONE PLOT REMAINING</p> <p>LANE HEAD CLOSE, W'HALL Two Bed End Town House. Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Guest W.C, Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen Diner, En-suite Shower Room To Master And Family Bathroom. D/Glazing & C/Heating. Garden To Rear Off Road Parking.</p> <p>£125,000</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>PRESTWOOD AVE, W'FIELD Three Bed Traditional Semi Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, 24ft Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen And Family Bathroom. Outside Is Off Road Parking And An Enclosed Rear Garden.</p> <p>£125,000</p>
<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>COLTSFOOT CL, WEDNESFIELD Two Bed End Town House. Comprises Of Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge, Conservatory, Family Bathroom, G/Central Heating, D/Glazing. Front And Side Gardens, Off Road Parking To The Fore, Enclosed Rear Garden.</p> <p>£129,950</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>SHEPWEEL GREEN, W'HALL Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Separate Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, UPVC D/Glazing, Gas C/Heating, Off Road Parking, Gardens To Front And Rear.</p> <p>£130,000</p>	<p>VIEWING ADVISED</p> <p>LOMBARDY GDN, SHORT HEATH Superbly Presented Two Bedroom Semi Detached Property. Comprises Of Lounge, Modern Fitted Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms & Bathroom. Gardens To Both The Front And Rear. Detached Garage And Driveway. MUST VIEW!</p> <p>£132,500</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>BASALT CLOSE, REEDSWOOD Modern Three Bedroom End Town House Comprising Of Fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, En-Suite, Fitted Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage & Off Road Parking. Viewing Recommended!</p> <p>£137,500</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>AMPLEFORTH DRIVE, W'HALL Three Bed End Town House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Ground Floor W.C, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen With Dining Area And Modern Family Bathroom. UPVC D/Glazed And Central Heated. Off Road Parking, Garden To Rear.</p> <p>£139,950</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>PATTENHAM CL, W'HALL Three Bed Town House. Ground Floor Has Lounge, Kitchen/Diner And W.C. First Floor Has Two Double Bedrooms And Bathroom, With The Master Bedroom And En-Suite Shower Room On The Second Floor.</p> <p>£145,000</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>WILLENHALL RD, BILSTON Extended Three Bed Semi Detached House Comprising Of Entrance Porch And Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Extended Modern Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Ground Floor W.C, First Floor Family Bathroom, Generous Garden To The Front And Side. Off Road Parking & Garages. Enclosed Garden To The Rear.</p> <p>£149,995</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>SHEPWEEL GREEN, W'HALL Three Bed Detached Dormer Bungalow Comprises Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, Ground Floor Bedroom, Two Bathrooms, Two First Floor Bedrooms, GCH, PG, Detached Garage, Front And Rear Gardens.</p> <p>£154,995</p>
<p>VIEWING ADVISED</p> <p>ALVINGTON CL, WILLENHALL Extended Three Bed Semi Having Entrance Porch & Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Inner Hall, Ground Floor W.C, Extended Kitchen With Dining Area, Family Bathroom, C/Heating, D/Glazing, Off Road Parking And Rear Garden.</p> <p>£155,000</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>BIRCHTREE HOLLOW, W'HALL Extended Five Bed Semi Detached Having Entrance Porch & Hall, Spacious Lounge/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Area, Ground Floor W.C, Additional Sitting Room And Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Driveway.</p> <p>£160,000</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>HIGHMOOR CL, COPPICE FARM Three Bed Detached Having Lounge, Separate Dining Room With UPVC Double Glazed French Doors, Fitted Kitchen, Master Bedroom With Fitted Wardrobes, Two Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Garage And Block Paved Driveway.</p> <p>£169,995</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>THE GREEN, DARLASTON Four Bed Detached House Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Ground Floor W.C, Rear Hallway, En-Suite Shower To Master Bed & Family Bathroom, Rear Garden & Off Road Parking.</p> <p>£169,995</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>LICHFIELD RD, NEW INVENTION Two Bed Detached Bungalow Having Through Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Family Bathroom With Separate Shower, D/Glazing, C/Heating, Enclosed Rear Garden & Driveway.</p> <p>£180,000</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>CRAB LANE, WILLENHALL Three Bed Dormer Bungalow, Comprises Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Bathroom, One Bedroom To Ground Floor. First Floor Has Two Bedrooms, Shower Room, D/G, G/C/H, Front/Rear Gardens, Driveway & Garage.</p> <p>£185,000</p>	<p>VIEWING ADVISED</p> <p>BILSTON RD, WILLENHALL Traditional Three Bed Detached. Comprises Of Entrance Hallway, Two Reception Rooms, Breakfast Kitchen, External Boiler Room And W/C, Three Bedrooms, Box Room And Family Bathroom.</p> <p>£199,995</p>	<p>VIEWING ADVISED</p> <p>BUSH STREET, DARLASTON Three Bed Cottage Style Detached Comprising Of Entrance Hall, Bathroom, Fitted Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms & En-Suite W.C To Master Bed. Outside Is Gated Parking, Double Garage With Office & Garden.</p> <p>£200,000</p>

Willenhall 01902 606595

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Residential Sales Lettings Property Management

Vicarage Road Wolverhampton



- Edwardian 4 Bedroom Detached House
 - Lounge
 - Dining Room
 - Sitting Room
- OFFERS AROUND: **£295,000**

Slaney Road Walsall



- Four Bedroom Semi Detached Residence
 - Two Large Reception Rooms & Breakfast Kitchen
 - Utility Room & Ground Floor Guest WC
 - Energy Rating E
 - Cellar Off Reception Hallway
- Viewing: OFFERS AROUND: **£250,000**



- Double Glazing As Stated
 - Gas Central Heating System
 - Off Road Parking & Rear Garden, First Floor Shower Room
- OFFERS AROUND: **£250,000**

William Barrows Way Tipton



- Modern 2.5 Storey Detached
 - Large Family Accommodation
 - Upvc Double Glazing - Gas Central Heating
 - epc B, Reception hall - Guest Cloakroom
- OFFERS AROUND: **£235,000**

Pepperbox Drive Tipton



- Modern Detached
 - Gas Central Heating - No Upward Chain
 - Sought After Development
 - epc, Vestibule - Guest Cloakroom - Reception Hall
- OFFERS AROUND: **£185,000**

Hobs Road Wednesbury



- A 2 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
 - No Upward Chain!
 - Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
 - EPC Rating: TBC, Reception Hall
- OFFERS AROUND: **£170,000**

PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE
ADDRESS 25 Sandbeds Road Willenhall WV12 4HH
We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £83,000. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. Energy Rating D.

PUBLIC NOTICE



PUBLIC NOTICE
Paul Dubberley & Co are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £78,000 for 113 Dora Street, Walsall, WS2 9AJ. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Paul Dubberley & Co - 15 Bridge Street, Walsall, WS1 1DB - 01922 241100, before exchange of contracts. Energy Rating E.

Humphries Crescent Wolverhampton



- Exclusive private development
 - 2 Bedroom detached new build bungalows
 - Electric gated access
 - Double Glazed As Stated
 - Lounge
- OFFERS AROUND: **£165,000**

Sannders Crescent Tipton



- Modern 3 Storey Town House
 - Upvc Double Glazing - Gas Central Heating
 - Spacious Family Accommodation
 - epc C, Reception hall - 2 Guest Cloakrooms
- OFFERS AROUND: **£160,000**

Newhome Way Walsall



- Modern Style Three Storey Residence
 - Master Bedroom With En-suite Shower Room
 - Three Further Bedrooms
 - Fore & Rear Garden
 - Contemporary Kitchen
- Viewing: OFFERS AROUND: **£155,000**

NEW



- Family Bathroom & Guest Wc
 - Gas Central Heating System
 - Double Glazing As Specified, Lounge & Conservatory
- OFFERS AROUND: **£155,000**

Griffiths Road West Bromwich



- Delightful Gated Development
 - NHBC Guarantee
 - Semi Detached Property
 - Energy Rating TBC, Separate Garage To Side
- OFFERS AROUND: **£155,000**

Wolverhampton Road West Bentley



- Extended Traditional Semi Detached Property
 - Three Bedrooms & Study/Additional Bedroom
 - Through Lounge Incorporating Dining Area
 - Rear Garden & Decked Terrace
 - Contemporary Style Kitchen
- Viewing: OFFERS AROUND: **£154,950**

Kent Avenue Walsall



NEW



- Traditional Semi Detached Property
 - Three Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
 - Through Lounge Incorporating Dining Area
 - Energy Rating C, Modern Extended Kitchen
- OFFERS AROUND: **£150,000**

Broadstone Avenue Bloxwich



- Spacious Semi Detached Property
 - Three Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
 - Two Large Reception Rooms
 - Good Access To Bloxwich & Walsall, Contemporary
- OFFERS AROUND: **£144,950**

Leveson Drive Tipton



- Modern Semi Detached
 - Gas Central Heating
 - Superbly Presented Accommodation
 - epc, Reception Hall
- OFFERS AROUND: **£139,950**

Moseley Road Wolverhampton



- 4 Bedroom semi detached house
 - Entrance porch and hallway
 - 2 Reception rooms
 - Kitchen/diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£138,000**

Honeybourne Way Willenhall



- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
 - Entrance Hall
 - Kitchen
 - Lounge/Diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£135,000**

Eleanor Road Bilston



- New build
 - 2 Bedroom semi detached bungalow
 - Entrance hall
 - Lounge
- OFFERS AROUND: **£135,000**

Meyrick Road West Bromwich



- Spacious End Terrace Family Home
 - Loft Conversion
 - Gas Central Heating - Upvc windows
 - epc C, Reception Hall
- OFFERS AROUND: **£130,000**

Scholars Walk Walsall



- Modern Semi Detached Property
 - Three Bedrooms
 - Lounge & Breakfast Kitchen
 - Energy Rating D, Family Bathroom & Conservatory
- OFFERS AROUND: **£129,950**

Rowland Hill Drive Tipton



- Modern Middle Terrace
 - Upvc Double Glazing - Gas Central Heating
 - No Upward Chain
 - epc, Reception Hall
- OFFERS AROUND: **£110,000**

Kendrick Place Bilston



- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
 - End Terrace Property
 - Entrance Porch and Hallway
 - Kitchen
- OFFERS AROUND: **£100,000**

Oatmill Close Wednesbury



- 2 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
 - Corner Plot with Potential to Extend STPP
 - No Upward Chain!
 - EPC Rating: C, Gas Central Heating & Double
- OFFERS AROUND: **£100,000**

Alder Road Wednesbury



- 1 Bedroom Semi Detached Bungalow
 - Gas Central Heating
 - Double Glazing
 - EPC Rating: D, No Chain!
- OFFERS AROUND: **£95,000**

Ash Road Tipton



- Spacious End Terrace
 - Upvc Double Glazing - Gas Central Heating
 - Ideal Family Home
 - epc, Reception hall
- OFFERS AROUND: **£95,000**

Barnard Street West Bromwich



- Traditional Terrace Property
 - Two Reception Rooms
 - Newly Fitted Kitchen
 - Energy Rating TBC, Walking Distance To Town
- OFFERS AROUND: **£95,000**

Ernest Road Dudley



- Semi Detached
 - Upvc Double Glazing
 - Gas Central Heating
 - epc D, Reception hall
- OFFERS AROUND: **£92,500**

Anson Road West Bromwich



- Opposite Harvills Hawthorn School
 - End Terrace Property
 - Three Bedrooms
 - Energy Rating E, Upstairs Bathroom
- OFFERS AROUND: **£87,000**

Wareham Close Walsall



- Modern Semi Detached Property
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Lounge & Kitchen
 - Energy Rating C, First Floor Bathroom
- OFFERS AROUND: **£79,950**

David Road Tipton



- Semi Detached
 - Corner Position
 - In need of attention
 - epc E, porch - acception hall
- OFFERS AROUND: **£75,000**

Pimpnel Drive Tame Bridge



- One Bedroom House
 - Lounge & Kitchen
 - Re-Fitted First Floor Bathroom
 - Viewing Essential To Appreciate, Double Glazed
- OFFERS AROUND: **£71,950**

Burrs Drive Wednesbury



- A Modern 1st Floor 2 Bedroom Apartment
 - 50% Shared Ownership
 - Electric Storage Heating
 - EPC Rating: B, Secure Intercom Communal En-
- OFFERS AROUND: **£43,495**

Keyworth Close Tipton



- Modern Semi Detached
 - 50% Share Ownership Scheme
 - Upvc Double Glazing - Gas Central Heating
 - epc D, Reception Hall
- OFFERS AROUND: **£40,000**

Walsall
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Broadway North, Walsall



£550,000

●●FANTASTIC PROPERTY THAT HAS THE WOW FACTOR!●● An extended five bedroom detached property on a large plot having the benefit of hardwood timber framed double glazing, gas central heating, fitted intruder alarm and surveillance system/intercom. This superb property further comprises, porch, reception hall, dining room, extended lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, granny annexe (comprising modern fitted kitchen, wet room, double bedroom), four bedrooms, family bathroom with additional shower cubicle, approx 125ft landscaped rear garden with patio area, ample parking for several cars behind remote electric gates. Awaiting EPC

Harness Close, Walsall



£159,995

An extended three bedroom link detached superb family home. The accommodation with gas central heating and majority double glazing includes, entrance porch, reception hall, spacious lounge with feature fireplace, dining room and sitting room, guest W.C. To the first floor the landing has three good sized bedrooms and bathroom with shower. Outside the property has a front lawned garden and driveway providing off road parking for several vehicles, garage with utility room to rear. To the rear of the property there is a landscaped, enclosed lawned garden with paved patio area and further secure off road parking behind double gates. Energy rating D.

Hilton Road, Lanesfield



£120,000

Refurbished, improved and upgraded with tens of thousands of pounds spent improving the property this superb three bedroom family home has the benefit of no upward chain, new UPVC double glazing, NEW central heating system, NEW floor coverings and decoration. This ideal family home further comprises reception hall, spacious open plan lounge/diner/re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom with shower and front and rear gardens. Energy rating C.

Foster Street, Darlaston



£94,995

A good size three bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen diner, utility room, three bedrooms, family bathroom and front and rear gardens. EPC rating D.

Temple Road, Willenhall



£90,000

An improved and upgraded two bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely spacious property further comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility area, guest W.C, two double bedrooms, attic room, family bathroom, rear garden and garage. Internal viewings a must to appreciate the quality of the property on offer. Energy rating E.

Kingsley Street, Walsall



£95,000

A 3/4 bedroom middle terrace having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This good sized property further comprises, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, attic room (used as 4th bedroom), rear garden with good sized brick built outhouse. Awaiting EPC.

All Saints Road, Wednesbury



£75,000

●●OPEN TOO OFFERS AND MUST BE SOLD●● A good sized middle terrace property having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, family bathroom and rear garden. Energy rating D.

The Avenue, Darlaston



£74,995

●●SUIT LANDLORD OF FIRST TIME BUYER●● A superb ground floor 2 bedroom modern apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, electric central heating and no upward chain. This lovely property further comprises, communal entrance with intercom, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen with appliances, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower and allocated parking. Energy rating D.

Manorhouse Close, Walsall



£73,500

A ground floor two bedroom modern apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, open plan lounge/kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom and allocated parking space. Energy rating C.

Croxley Gardens, Hadley Heath



£119,995

A refurbished and improved two bedroom semi detached home in the popular Hadley Heath estate having the benefit of a fitted intruder alarm, gas central heating and cul-de-sac location. This lovely property further comprises, reception hall, open plan lounge/refitted kitchen/diner, two bedrooms, refitted bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens and off road parking. Energy rating D

St. Pauls Street, Walsall



£35,000

A rare opportunity to purchase a fully licensed 34 seater Italian Restaurant in Walsall town centre with all fixtures and fittings included. The restaurant is currently trading with books and accounts available for serious buyers. There is a reception area, 34 seater dining area, fully fitted food preparation area, fully fitted kitchen, CCTV and customer toilet. Purchase is for the good will of the company with viewing strictly via agents only.

Oxford Place, Walsall



£84,995

A superb two bedroom first floor modern apartment having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This lovely apartment further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted modern kitchen with integrated appliances, two bedrooms (master with en suite shower room), family bathroom with shower from taps and allocated parking. Suit first time buyer or landlord as property is currently let for ?450pcm. Energy rating C.

Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston



£69,995

A two bedroom middle terrace property having the benefit of part UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property is in need of some refurbishment and upgrading whilst briefly comprising dining room, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, W.C, two double bedrooms and rear garden. Awaiting energy rating.

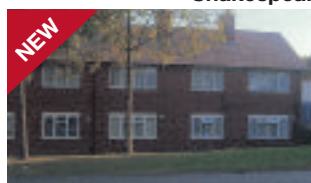
Water Reed Grove, Waterside Walk



£119,995

A superb modern two bedroom end of terrace home, ideal for the first time buyer. The property has the benefit of cul-de-sac location, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This lovely well presented property further comprises, reception hall, guest W.C, lounge, modern fitted kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, rear garden and off road parking for two vehicles. Energy rating C

Shakespeare Road, Tipton



£50,000

A one bedroomed first floor flat ideal for first time buyers or landlord currently with tenant paying £400 pcm and having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, refitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, double bedroom and communal gardens. Energy rating D.



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LETTINGS

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Walsall

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Goodchids
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Bloxwich
Blakenall Lane

- THREE BEDROOM MID-TERRACE
- Gas Central Heating
- Two Reception Rooms•Kitchen
- Recently Refurbished Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£475 PCM

Bloxwich
Woodall Street

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Kitchen•Lounge/Diner
- Bathroom•En-Suite
- Gardens•Garage
- Off Road Parking, Sorry NO DHSS

£675 PCM

Walsall
Loriners Grove

- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen•Fitted Bathroom
- Communal Grounds
- Allocated Gated Parking

£550 PCM

Walsall
Deermead Court

- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- En-Suite Shower
- Family Bathroom
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating

£440 PCM

Bloxwich
Evesham Crescent

- THREE BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Lounge•Kitchen•Family Bathroom
- Garage and Front & Rear Gardens

£500 PCM

Bloxwich
Green Lane

- Three Bedroom Terraced property
- D.Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Kitchen
- Utility Area•Bathroom
- Rear Garden•DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM

Walsall
West Bromwich Road

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Open Plan Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen•Ground Floor Bathroom
- Gardens•Gas Central Heating
- Sorry No DHSS

£475 PCM

Walsall
Borneo Street

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- 2 Reception Rooms•Dining Room
- Kitchen•Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing•Rear Garden
- Majority Gas Heating•DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM

Bloxwich
West Street

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Lounge•Kitchen and Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Conservatory•DHSS Accepted

£475 PCM

Bloxwich
Signal Grove

- Two Bedroom End Town House
- Lounge•Family Kitchen•Bathroom
- D.Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Front Garden•Allocated Parking

£450 PCM

Willenhall
Ernest Clark Close

- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Large Storage Cupboard•Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen•Lounge/Dining Room
- DHSS Accepted•Sorry No Pets or Smokers

£450 PCM

Walker Road
Guild Court

- Two Bedroom Apartments
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom • Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing • Allocated Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM

Walsall
Basalt Close

- Two Bedroom End of Terraced
- Lounge•Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom•ORP
- D.Glazing and Electric Heating
- Sorry No DHSS

£450 PCM

Blakenhall Heath
Church Walk, Parish Court

- Two Bed Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- D.Glazing
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM

Walsall
Terret Close

- One Bedroom Apartment
- Fitted Kitchen•Lounge with French Doors
- Electric Heating & Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£425 PCM

Bloxwich
Elmore Green Close

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Separate Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower over Bath
- D.Glazing and Electric Heating

£425 PCM

Walsall
Kent Street

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

£410 PCM

Bloxwich
Harrison Street

- Two Bedroom Flat
- Lounge/Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom
- DHSS Accepted
- D.Glazing•Electric heating

£400 PCM

Bloxwich
High Street

- Two Bedroom Two Floor Flat
- Electric Storage Heating and D.Glazing
- Fitted Kitchen•Large Lounge
- Bathroom
- Sorry No DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£400 PCM

Walsall
Bloxwich Road

- One Bed Flats
- Lounge
- Kitchen•Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

From £350 PCM

Walsall
Moat Road

- Two Bed Flat above retail premises
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Shower Room
- DHSS Accepted

£350 PCM

Walsall
Harden Close

- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge•Kitchen•Bathroom
- Rear Garden•D.Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£325 PCM

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The Chronicle Thursday, August 21, 2014

Bloxwich
Lichfield Road



- Extended Four Bed Detached
- Black Paved Driveway•Garage
- Extensive Rear Garden
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £314,950


Walsall
Gillity Avenue



- Three Bedroom Detached Dorma Bungalow
- Kitchen•Lounge/Dining room
- En-Suite•Garage•Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Central Heating•Double Glazing

In the Region of £295,000

Pelsall
Mount Road



- Four Bedroom Detached
- Two Reception Rooms•Garage
- Breakfast Kitchen with Appliances
- En-Suites & Cloakroom•Conservatory
- Mature Rear Garden with Brick Built Shed

In the Region of £285,000

Walsall
Lichfield Road



- Six Bedroom Victorian Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms•Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility/Guest W.C. •Off Road Parking
- En-Suite/Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Offers in Excess of £280,000

Walsall
Leigh Road



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Newly Fitted Kitchen•Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £230,000

NEW
Bloxwich
Wallington Close



- EXTENDED THREE BED BUNGALOW
- Cul-De-Sac location•Large Lounge
- Extended L-Shaped Kitchen/Diner
- Utility•Bathroom•Detached Garage
- Front, Rear & Side Gardens•ORP

In the Region of £210,000

Willenhall
Gorey Close



- Extended Three Bedroom Detached
- Three Reception Rooms•Kitchen/Diner
- Utility/W.C. •Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £187,950

Willenhall
Sandringham Avenue



- Extended Four Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory•Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden•Garage & Off Road Parking

In the Region of £179,995

Bloxwich
Wallington Heath



- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Through Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen/Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Fitted Wardrobes in Master Bedroom

In the Region of £158,000

Willenhall
John Riley Drive



- Three Bedroom Detached
- Lounge•Family Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen•D, Glazing & Gas Heating
- Driveway•Integral Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region of £142,500

Willenhall
Edinburgh Drive



- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Family Bathroom

In the Region of £139,995

Walsall
The Pines



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Kitchen
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom

In the Region of £139,950

Bloxwich
Simmonds Road



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Fully Refurbished
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Utility

In the Region of £138,950

Walsall
Tenbury Close



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Planning Permission
- Fitted Kitchen•Lounge
- Shower Room•Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

In the Region of £137,500

Rushall
Rough Brook Road



- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen•Lounge/Dining Room
- Guest W.C. •Family Bathroom
- Enclosed Rear Garden•Off Road Parking
- D, Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £124,995

Walsall
Lane Avenue



- Extended Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Re-Furnished•Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen•Cloakroom W.C.
- En-Suite Shower
- Bathroom•Rear Gardens

In the Region of £124,950

Rushall
Station Road



- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Well Maintained Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £120,000

Willenhall
Lichfield Road



- Two Bedroom End-Terrace
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Rear Garden

In the Region of £114,995

Willenhall
Bentley Lane



- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Lounge
- Open Plan Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Communal Grounds

In the Region of £110,000

Walsall
Tame Street East



- Three Bedroom Terraced Property
- D, Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Lounge•Fitted Kitchen•Downstairs W.C.
- Bathroom•Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking•No Upward Chain

Offers in excess of £110,000

Willenhall
Chatsworth Close



- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge•Fitted Kitchen•Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Detached Garage
- Off Road Parking

Offers in Excess of £110,000

Willenhall
Walkers Fold



- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge/Diner•Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Front & Rear Gardens

In the Region of £107,950

Willenhall
Wychbold Close



- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Kitchen/Diner•Lounge
- Cloakroom W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens

Offers in Excess of £100,000

Bloxwich
Marlborough Street



- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge•Kitchen•Cloakroom W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating

Offers in Excess of £95,000

Willenhall
Squires Grove



- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Lounge with Juliet Balcony
- Fitted Kitchen•En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Communal Grounds & Allocated Parking

In the Region of £95,000

Halford Crescent, Walsall



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge•Through Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Garden
- D, Glazing & Gas Central Heating

In the Region of £95,000

Walsall
Woodcutter Close



- Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Spacious Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Ideal for First Time Buyers
- Excellent Transport Links

In the Region of £94,950

NEW
Bloxwich
West Street



- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Three Double Bedrooms

In the Region of £92,000

Walsall
Deermead Court



- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Family Bathroom
- Communal Grounds

In the Region of £90,000

REDUCED
Walsall
Ryle Street



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge•Kitchen•Front & Rear Gardens
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating (Where Specified)

Offers in Excess of £80,000

Bloxwich
Blakenall Lane



- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Potential to Extend
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C.

Offers in Excess of £80,000

Walsall
Raleigh Street



- Two Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms

Offers in Excess of £80,000

Walsall
Terret Close



- One Bedroom Top Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Allocated Gated Parking

In the Region of £79,950

REDUCED
Walsall
Cope Street



- Three Bedroom End-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen•Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden•Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating

Offers in Excess of £75,000

Willenhall
Clarkes Lane



- Two Bedroom First Floor Flat
- Lounge•Fitted Kitchen
- Utility Room•Family Bathroom
- Communal Grounds
- Double Glazing•Gas Heating

£70,000

Walsall
Old Birchills



FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION 10th SEPTEMBER 2014 AT THE CUMBERLAND HOTEL LONDON. Guide price £35,000 - £40,000 . THREE BEDROOM END-TERACE Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Downstairs W.C.

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**Station Road
PELSALL**



- Four bed Detached House
- Gas Central Heating
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Garage, SORRY NO DHSS

£895PCM


**Cherry Brook
NORTON CANES**



- Three bed Modern Family Home
- Bathroom
- Ensuite
- Guest Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner

£650PCM


**Dumblederry Lane
ALDRIDGE**



- Three bedroom semi detached
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Lounge Diner
- Kitchen
- Bathroom, SORRY NO DHSS

£650PCM

**Hednesford Road
BROWNHILLS**



LET

- Three bedroom detached family home
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Garage and Block Paved Drive-way

£675PCM

**Simmonds Way
BROWNHILLS**



LET

- Three bedroom detached
- Gas heating central heating
- Dining Room
- Garage and Front & Rear Garden

£675PCM

**Cherry Brook
NORTON CANES**



LET

- Three bedroomed Modern Family Home
- Family Bathroom
- Ensuite
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner

£650PCM

**Hillside
PELSALL**




LET

- NEWLY REFURBISHED
- Three bed Semi
- Popular location
- DON'T MISS OUT

£695PCM

**Bosty Lane
ALDRIDGE**




LET

- Three bedroom semi detached
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Entrance Hall

£695PCM

**Waterside Way
BROWNHILLS**



LET

- Three bedroom link detached
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Front & Rear Garden and Garage

£625PCM

**Brickyard Road
ALDRIDGE**



LET

- Two bedroom second floor apartment
- UPVC double glazing
- Economy 7 heating
- Communal Hallway

£575PCM

**Grange Crescent
SHELFIELD**




LET

- Three bedroom terraced
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Lounge

£575PCM

**St James Place
NORTON CANES**




LET

- Two bedroom Apartment
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge / Diner
- Modern Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Allocated parking space

£550PCM

**High Ridge Close
ALDRIDGE**



LET

- Two bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Rear garden

£530PCM

**Lapwing Close
BROWNHILLS**



LET

- Two bed apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Bathroom

£525PCM

**Parkhouse Grove
ALDRIDGE**



LET

- Two bed Apartment
- Gas central heating
- Double Glazing
- Living Room
- Kitchen, En-Suite

£525PCM

**Lichfield Road
WALSALL WOOD**



LET

- Semi detached property
- Two reception rooms
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms

£525PCM

**St James Place
NORTON CANES**



LET

- 2 Bed Apartment with Off Road Parking
- Gas central heating
- Open plan living room into Kitchen
- Integrated appliances in Kitchen
- Double Glazing • Electric Heating • Sorry No DHSS

£500PCM

**Paterson Place
SHIRE OAK**



LET

- Two bedroom terraced home
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Rear Garden and Off Road Parking

£495PCM

**Norton Terrace
NORTON CANES**



LET

- Two bedroom property
- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating

£475PCM

**Hayling Court
SHELFIELD**



LET

- Two bedroom first floor apartment
- Gas central heating
- UPVC double glazing
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge, Kitchen

£450PCM

**Bonner Grove
ALDRIDGE**



LET

- Second Floor Apartment
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating

£425PCM

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43 DAYS

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TODAY!!

AWARD
WINNING

Shire Lea
BROWNHILLS



- Detached Bungalow
- Four Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Conservatory
- Garage, NO CHAIN

OIRO £295,000

Millers Walk
PELSALL



- SPACIOUS DETACHED HOME
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- EN-SUITE, • FOUR BEDROOMS
- DETACHED GAMES ROOM
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

OIRO £275,000

Silver Waters
BROWNHILLS



- Four Double Bedrooms
- Fitted Breakfast Kitchen
- Family Bathroom, En-Suite Shower
- Detached Double Garage
- Driveway

£249,995

Wood Common Grange
PELSALL



- Four Bedrooms
- Lounge, • Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Kitchen Diner
- Utility Room, En-Suite

£240,000

Meadow Road
ALDRIDGE



SOLD STC

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Porch, Lounge
- Kitchen, • Utility
- Bathroom
- Garage, NO CHAIN

£215,000

NEW

Ivy Grove
BROWNHILLS



- Three bedroom detached
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Conservatory, W.C
- En-Suite
- Rear gardens, driveway, Double Garage

£160,000

NEW

Mill Road
BROWNHILLS



- Three bedroom Semi Detached
- Gas central heating
- Double Glazing
- Lounge, Dining Area
- Kitchen, Conservatory

£145,000

Cygnal Drive
BROWNHILLS



SOLD STC

- Three bedroom Town House
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Family Bathroom
- Master bedroom with En-suite
- Off road parking

£140,000

Beechtree Road
WALSALL WOOD



- Entrance Hall
- Guest Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Dining Room, Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms

£139,950

Kings Road
RUSHALL



- Lounge, Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

£139,950

Bosty Lane
ALDRIDGE



SOLD STC

- Three bed semi detached
- Gas central heating
- Double Glazing
- Lounge, Kitchen Diner
- Conservatory, Family Bathroom

£130,000

Chester Road North
BROWNHILLS



- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Guest W.C, Kitchen
- Three Bed
- Family Bathroom, NO CHAIN

£124,950

Chandlers Keep
BROWNHILLS



SOLD STC

- Three bedroom
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, En-Suite Shower
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking, NO CHAIN

£120,000

Red Lion Avenue
NORTON CANES



- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing (where specified)
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner

£122,500

Third Avenue
BROWNHILLS



- Three bedrooms
- Gas central heating
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Garden

£114,995

NEW

Lindon Road
BROWNHILLS



- Two bed Semi detached
- Gas central heating
- Entrance Hallway, Lounge
- Kitchen, Family Bathroom
- 2 Allocated parking spaces, NO CHAIN

£114,995

Old Town Lane
PELSALL



- Three Bedroom Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Communal Grounds

£94,950

Lapwing Close
BROWNHILLS



- Living Room
- Kitchen with Integrated Appliances
- Two Bedrooms
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Allocated Parking

£100,000

Paterson Place
BROWNHILLS



- Two Bedroom House
- Kitchen & Lounge Diner
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Family Bathroom
- Block Paved Driveway & Rear Garden

£95,000

NEW

Howdles Lane
BROWNHILLS



- Two bed maisonette
- Entrance Hall
- Open Plan Lounge Diner
- Kitchen, Study
- Off Road Parking

£75,000

Cherwell Drive
BROWNHILLS



SOLD STC

- One Bedroom
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating

£49,995

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One L of a pick-up

By David Banner

The L200 does the lifestyle pick-up thing better than any other model.

It offers more adventurous styling and high spec versions called Warrior and Barbarian with lots of equipment. The underlying vehicle is more of a mixed bag. Build quality and road manners could be better but the L200 is manoeuvrable, tough and looks like good value for money.

Whichever L200 model you choose, and there are quite a few of them, there's a 2.5-litre common-rail injection diesel engine up front doing the hard work. In standard form, this engine turns in a healthy 134bhp and torque of 314Nm at 2,000rpm but a high power option is also available that tickles the output up to a macho 175bhp with 400Nm at 2,000rpm in manual form. This latter unit is capable of hitting 62mph from standstill in 12.1s before rumbling on to a 111mph top speed.

The less powerful L200s take 15s to reach 62mph and will eventually attain 103mph. The five-speed manual gearbox comes as standard but a five-speed automatic is also offered that features a Sport mode.

The L200 rides on a no-nonsense ladder frame chassis with multi-link front suspension and heavy duty leaf springs at the rear. It's the standard set-up in the pick-up world and what it lacks in finesse on the tarmac it makes up for in strength and ability in the rough. Pick-up ride quality always leaves something to be desired compared to 4x4 passenger cars but the L200 doesn't do too badly.

Some pick-ups have entry-level front-wheel-drive versions but not the L200. Whether it's the Easy Select 4WD system on the entry-level models or the Super Select 4WD set-up on the

range-topping versions, all have all-wheel-drive. Easy Select models should be run in 2WD mode in normal conditions with a locked 4WD mode selectable on low friction surfaces.

The Super Select is an advanced full time 4x4 set-up similar to that found in Mitsubishi's Shogun. It allows the L200 to be driven in 2WD or fulltime 4WD mode on the road without the excessive wear and tear suffered by part time systems as a result of transmission wind-up. In slippery off-road situations, a further 4WD mode can be selected which maximises traction by locking the centre differential. Both of the systems are operated by the traditional and rather clunky lever sited alongside the gear stick which seems slightly dated when compared to the dash-mounted dials used by rival manufacturers.

Extensive

There are three basic bodystyles to mull over. The single cab is reserved very much for businesses that need a proper old school working pick-up. Its traditional two seats and extensive 2,220mm load length mean it prioritises cargo over cabin and it's only offered in the base trims. The second option is the Club cab. This is for single cab customers who might occasionally need to transport more than one passenger. It offers a 1,805mm load length with additional capacity behind the cabin's front seats for secure storage or to seat a couple of small ones.

Most L200 customers opt for a double cab body, a variant offered in any trim level you like. This is a four-door five-seater model with a decent amount of legroom for the rear passengers and seat backs angled at a comfortable 25 degrees. There has to be a compromise for this extra passenger space and it comes in the shape of a modest 1,325mm load length in standard guise. The solution is the Long Bed version of this model with an extra 18cms of load length.



Whichever L200 bodystyle you choose, it will have a 1,085mm load width, a capacity to carry in excess of 1,000kg and a 2,700kg braked trailer towing limit.

The L200 trim level range reflects its goal of catering for business and private buyers. You have 4Work models at the base of the range equipped only with the basics. That means CD stereo, steel wheels, and the basic Easy Select 4x4 system. 4Life is a little plusher with air-conditioning, electric windows and keyless entry but still has the utilitarian feel. Beyond that, we reach the high series L200s, double cab versions dubbed Warrior and Barbarian. These

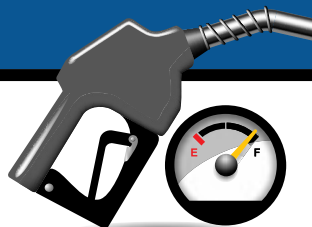
are the bigger sellers and the models that really crossover between business and pleasure usage.

All of the high series L200 models feature the M-ASTC traction and stability control system as standard which is a really useful addition. The Warrior also features 17" alloy wheels, body-coloured wheel-arches, cruise control and climate control.

The Barbarian is actually rather civilised, adding a colour screen satellite navigation system, a reversing camera, full leather trim and numerous styling accessories.

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Supermini is a bargain buy

The MG3 was designed with the intention of being fun to drive, the chassis having been subjected to many thousands of miles of testing on European roads.

The first cars offered to journalists to drive in China were rather harshly sprung but MG promised to fit springs and dampers that offered a more supple feel for UK roads.

The engine is a 1.5-litre 106PS four-cylinder unit that naturally drives the front wheels. There's nothing revolutionary about the suspension which is fairly standard set-up with MacPherson struts up front and a torsion beam at the rear. You also get a drive-by-wire braking system and an electrically-assisted power steering set-up.

The exterior styling looks quite smart, if maybe a little supermini-generic in a way that could have been produced from one of many manufacturers in this sector if you covered the badges over. Still, because the MG3 looks to undercut many of the established names, this rather blended styling is perhaps to its credit.

It continues the design theme introduced on the MG Zero concept vehicle and the company claims it's "a distinctive statement of modern British style designed to target young and style-conscious buyers". Make of that what you will.

The interior will come as a welcome relief to anybody who's a bit baffled by the complexity and deep technology of many modern superminis. Climb out of a Peugeot 208, with its self-parking system and tablet computer-style central infotainment system and, without being unduly blunt, it's very different. Still, the MG3 is tidy inside with seats that look and feel very Volkswagen.

There are a few white touches around the stereo, on the steering wheel, the door pulls, handbrake and gear lever but aside from that, everything is uniformly grey. Sit in the back seats and you'll find the front seats are sculpted to improve leg room, while the rear headroom is genuinely impressive.

Prices start at under £8,500, getting you this supermini-sized car for less than the kind of money you'd pay for a little citycar. All models get signature front LED lights and a hill holder clutch as standard, with all but the entry model featuring a high quality DAB audio system.

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Many plus points for refreshed Kia Optima

By Sharon Walters

Refreshed and ready to do battle in the tough mid-size saloon market, Kia's Optima is a high-spec, value-for-money alternative to the mainstream opposition.

Kia's Optima has been around for a few years, and this mild refresh ensures that the Korean firm's mid-size saloon stays competitive in a crowded marketplace populated by more expensive and long-established rival metal. There's much to like about the Optima; it's a stylish car and its bold corporate 'look' is striking without detracting from the rest of its clean lines.

Subtle tweaks to the car's nose and tail hide a more comprehensive update inside and under the skin. Improvements to overall refinement have resulted in a quieter cabin, while there's more standard and optional kit available.

Kia's following the trend for the inclusion of smarter safety technology, such as blind spot and lane departure warning kit.

The sharp-suited Optima has nothing to fear in the company car park. The car's decidedly European styling cues sit comfortably with the less adventurous looks of many of its rivals.

Crucially, the big Kia shares many of its exterior details with smaller cars in the family, and it's this familiarity that should help tempt buyers to trade up with confidence.

Confidence also plays a big part in the ownership experience, which is why Kia has scored highly in recent years with its generous seven-year warranty.

It's an unusual yet welcome sales tactic, and has done wonders for the brand's image when it was building confidence among buyers at the start of its big European sales push many years ago.

Practicality

A large saloon like the Optima is designed from the outset to be accommodating, and the four-door Kia doesn't disappoint. Although the main focus is on front seat occupants, there's also ample room in the back for business associates or the family. The car's generous sized boot is also a big plus and the cabin isn't short of useful oddment storage options, making it an ideal environment for road warriors and their clutter.

Kia has worked to ensure the Optima delivers a refined and soothing driving experience, ready to rival the products of the established European players.

It's largely paid off, with the Optima easily capable of munching the motorway miles and distancing the driver from poorly surfaced roads.

The sole 1.7-litre diesel engine option delivers a strong performance, and remains reasonably quiet when pushed hard.

Don't expect the Optima to rival the German sports saloons for outright performance though, as Kia's aim to major on refinement and comfort has largely succeeded.

In its refreshed state, boasting more kit and visibly higher quality levels, the Optima offers budget-savvy buyers a credible alternative to the wares of the more established brands. With its sensible economy and emissions ratings, plus that all-important seven-year warranty, the Optima makes a lot of sense for both private buyers and company car users.

Who would buy one?: If you're downsizing from a larger luxury car yet keen to retain your much-loved creature comforts, Kia's Optima is worth a serious look.

That's also true if you want to move up in the world but don't fancy paying big bucks for the privilege. Either way, the Optima comes with plenty of kit, is refined and capable enough to worry the opposition.

If you're a professional driver seeking reliable transport that will also impress customers, the Optima's polished appearance and spacious cabin are major plus points.

Kia Optima 2 1.7 CRDI, £22,695

What's not to like in great value fast hatch

By James Parker

Ford's Fiesta ST has long been the thinking person's fast hatchback. This latest one is no exception.

With 182PS on tap, it keeps things real and the pricing looks great as well. Ford has certainly put down a serious marker. The plushiest ST3 version adds sat nav, keyless entry, cruise control, auto headlamps and wipers, power folding mirrors and electronic climate control that many owners will want.

So-called 'warm hatches' have often been a tricky sell. Why? Because there's usually a faster version that's more desirable. Warm hatches are usually bought by younger drivers who want the faster car but can't afford the insurance bills. There is an exception. Ford's Fiesta would appear to be the perfect candidate for a searing hot hatch, but in recent years, instead of a fire-breathing RS model, the pinnacle of Fiesta sporting ambition has been the ST line. But the 'Sports Technologies' variant has usually been a great car in its own right.

Now we've got another Fiesta ST to compare with earlier standard setters. Instead of the 150PS it had in previous generation form, it gets a heftier 182PS. Does this lift it into a more serious price category? Not a bit of it. Ford has kept the pricing keen, so much so that we suspect that some manufacturers of this Fiesta's opposition are starting to feel more than a little worried.

The top ST3 version we're going to look at here costs an extra £1,000, but still manages to look good value against many obvious rivals.

Ford has developed new chassis and suspension components to improve the ride quality and refinement of the car and further enhanced the Ford Electronic Power Assisted Steering system.

Unique suspension and steering tuning and better Torque Vectoring Control (eTVC) combines with a 15mm lower ride height to deliver the requisite dynamic improvements over what is already a very good chassis.

Ostentatious

Ford produce the Fiesta ST in both three and five door guises, but there are no plans to import the five-door car to the UK. But when the three-door model looks this good, I doubt too many tears will be shed. The big front grille (which can look a bit ostentatious on an ordinary poverty-spec Fiesta supermin) works well with the ST's more extrovert body styling. That runs to an imposing black honeycomb trapezoidal front grille, plus a large rear spoiler with twin air vents and twin exhaust.

Colour choices including Molten Orange and Spirit Blue and an optional style pack adds red brake calipers and grey alloy wheels to pump up the aggression a bit.

The rising beltline of the Fiesta in profile doesn't seem to bode well for the rear seat passengers in this three-door car but the Fiesta surprises with decent legroom and headroom that's manageable even for a six-footer. The windows are small and set high up, so light isn't abundant in the back but the shopping bags, coats and road atlases that owners will store there most of the time won't be overly worried.

Standard spec for all Fiesta STs runs to 17in alloy wheels, a body styling kit with a chromed dual exhaust pipe, a Quickclear heated windscreen, front fog lights, a Thatcham Category 1 alarm, a leather-trimmed ST steering wheel and gearshift knob with red stitching plus a decent quality stereo system incorporating a DAB digital radio. There's also Ford's clever Bluetooth/USB SYNC connectivity and the 'My Key' system via which you can tailor the systems of the car to your own settings communicated to it via the ignition key.

The whole point of sporty Fiestas has been to offer a generous slice of fun coupled with modest running costs. It was always thus with the old XR2 and it continues with this generation ST. Even with 182PS on tap, you'll still see 47.9mpg on the combined cycle with emissions pegged at a very reasonable 138g/km. That compares well with cars like the 208 GTi, which manages 139g/km and the Fabia vRS at 148g/km.

It's hard to see how Ford could have done a lot better with the Fiesta ST. Warm hatches are usually a difficult thing to position as there will always be that nagging feeling that if you just saved a little more, you could be in something more exciting, but the ST has long stood up very well as a model in its own right.

With 182PS on tap translating into a sprint to 62mph of just 6.9 seconds, this Fiesta is quicker than many of the proper hot hatches of not so very long ago. It'll most certainly out-handle some fairly illustrious names as well.

An integral part of bringing a warm hatch to market is managing costs and it's here that the Ford really plays its trump card. It gets 47.9mpg on the combined fuel economy cycle and emissions are rated at just 138g/km - but the biggest draw is certain to be the price tag.

At just £17,000, the base model is very tempting and even in the £19,000 ST3 guise we've looked at here, it still strongly pays the value card.



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The successful applicant will have a professional attitude, be able to demonstrate excellent customer service skills and have a real passion for driving sales. A proven track record in sales, particularly within the newspapers industry would be advantageous but is not essential as full training and support will be provided.

In return we offer a competitive annual salary, 25 days annual holiday per year and enrolment into the company pension scheme. Additionally the role comes with the benefit of a company car so a full driving licence is required.

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8

Motoring

cars over £1500

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2009, (59 plate), MoT and tax till
end December 2014, low mileage,
£5,750, o.n.o. 07985 727772.

FORD FOCUS TITANIUM 1.6 diesel
Estate, 125,000 miles, tax end of
Sept, 12 months MoT, £4,000.
07511 913896.

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3 door, yellow, 58 reg, 18,800
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Good condition. New tyres.
11 months MoT, 114,000 miles.
Silver.
£1,400 with soft top.
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07719 496669.

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1.4, petrol, 60,000 miles, 12 months
MoT, 2 owners, FSH, very good
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Reduced 2011, 16v Exclusive.
Long MoT, very good condition,
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07836 734360.

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07891 065667.

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tax Sept, some history, excellent
condition, very good MPG, CD
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ments (Disclosure) Order of
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ments must clearly
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FIAT PUNTO 1.2, 5dr, in gold, tax
and MoT till March 15, 82,000
miles, £995 ono. 07702 172843.

FIAT MONDO LX, 2002, 157k
miles, silver, 6 months tax/MoT.
Owned from 2005, regularly serv-
iced, excellent runner. £550 ono.
07713 341856.

HONDA JAZZ SE 2006, 19,200
miles, met blue, long tax & MoT,
fs, superb, pensioners car, must
see. £4,750 ono 07881 933009.

HYUNDAI TRAJET, 7 seater, 1.9 diesel, 2003, tax, MoT, mechanically sound, body needs attention, hence £500 one. 01543 425019.

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC, 2002(52), 1.6 petrol, 89k miles, metallic red, 12 months MoT. One owner. £950 one. 01948 663113.

TOYOTA YARIS, 2004, 94,000 miles, silver, air bag, ish, MoT, metallic paint, tax, stereo. £1,275 one. 07718 242876.

VAUXHALL CORSA 2003, 1.2, 5-dr hatchback, 30,000 miles, FSH, 12 months MoT, very good condition in/out £1,075. 07808 470751.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2010 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 10G. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please note your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

14/07/99/RP Keepmoat FGR: Reserved matters application for erection of 412 new dwellings - 235 for private sale and 177 for affordable rent with associated parking, landscaping and road works (outline permission 12/0038/OL). AT: Goscoe Lane Regeneration Corridor incorporating sites in Shakespeare Crescent, Keats Road, Tennyson Road, Chaucer Road, Wordsworth Road, Dryden Road, Harden Road and Well Lane, Walsall.

MARY PATRICIA NADDERMIER (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 7 Orwell Road Walsall West Midlands WS1 2PJ, who died on 16/02/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 31/10/2014, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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The Application Record and Register may be viewed during normal office hours at the above address. It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000).

DEBS petite attractive auburn haired, good listener, romantic, enjoys socialising, cosy nights in with Mr Right, seeking similar caring N/S single dad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412599

SALLY stunning lady looking for dinner dates, partying and generally having a good time with generous man looking for his mojd No strings, go on call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412599

10 Personals

GENUINE MALE

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w.l.t.m a genuine honest down to earth gentleman in view to holidays, days out and marriage.
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general

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Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Text cost £1.50 per message sent.

JAN 5ft11s slim pretty lady in great shape, open-minded, laidback, GSOH, OHAC, many interests. WLTm someone for cuddling up with and to share good and bad times. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412931

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 410127

ANN slim attractive N/S lady who is easy to get along with, seeking for romantic interesting man for new adventures together, hopefully fr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412911

JULIE loving, caring, honest, seeks real gent to share conversation and have a great time, friendship/relationship, who knows? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412777

ZOE, 25yrs, very naughty seeks any man age for broad minded no strings fun and games. Tel No: 0905 002 1933 Box 409719

FELICITY professional female, 32yrs, blonde, curvy, fun. Travels a lot and with chap for occasional fun on my travels. Text only Box: 4459438

LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691

LINDA single and living alone, attractive, young looking, bubbly, WLTm similar young man to help companion to be close with, enjoy chats and romantic dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410119

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745

JAN slim curvy professional woman, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167

FUN loving lady, likes most things in life, would like to meet fun loving man for possible romance. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4453462

EUROPEAN beauty romantic, caring, attentive, looking for loving male to enjoy warm loving relationship with, call me to find out more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413013

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 405297

KAREN 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive brunette who loves pubs, cosy nights in, kids, seeking special honest guy/dad for poss fr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413005

ROSA 27 sexy senorita seeking older handsome prince charming to whisk me off my feet, enjoy fun times, improve my English and fall in love with. Age/race unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412927

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329

TALL 42yr old sincere male, caring, honest, loving, seeking female, 30-40 for fun, friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412483



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Try it.. You'll love it!

RITA attractive blonde with a very kind heart seeks special man to share my life with. Please get in touch if like me you are fed up with always being the single friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412987

SUSIE discreet married lady, young 36yrs seeks uncomplicated times with man any age or area, all texts answered. Text only Box: 4459437

KAREN slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal female who likes shopping, socialising, nights in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412041

KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach walks, cosy nights in, seeking honest loving man for fr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411777

CAROL young 47, caring, lovely, likes music, concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411919

PROFESSIONAL black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gent, possibly farmer for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411763

VICKY 37yr professional, mum to one, sensual and very attractive, looking for a real man, tall, fit, sincere and passionate to enjoy each other's company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411695

LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691

LINDA single and living alone, attractive, young looking, bubbly, WLTm similar young man to help companion to be close with, enjoy chats and romantic dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410119

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745

JAN slim curvy professional woman, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167

FUN loving lady, likes most things in life, would like to meet fun loving man for possible romance. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4453462

EUROPEAN beauty romantic, caring, attentive, looking for loving male to enjoy warm loving relationship with, call me to find out more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413013

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 405297

KAREN 34 blue/green eyed size 12 attractive brunette who loves pubs, cosy nights in, kids, seeking special honest guy/dad for poss fr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413005

ROSA 27 sexy senorita seeking older handsome prince charming to whisk me off my feet, enjoy fun times, improve my English and fall in love with. Age/race unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412927

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019

SUSAN 64, lively, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411329

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ALAN tall widower, 76, looking for female of similar age who enjoys meals out, holidays, walks and holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412281

ROY mid 60's, N/S, car driver, young outlook, seeks lady for friendship. West Bromwich area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412083

TALL attractive Shrewsbury male, 54, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement in the daytime. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411823

TALL Indian gent, 53, seeks sensual lady for friendship, plus, interesting chap, discreet days in and nights out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413315

JOHN 70, tall, slim, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411383

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Forde is grabbing chance for revival

ANTHONY FORDE is relishing the challenge of joining Walsall from Wolves.

The 20-year-old signed a two-year deal with the Saddlers recently after the clubs agreed to the transfer.

Forde had not featured for Wolves since appearing as a substitute against Colchester last November and admitted he is keen to get his career back on track.

The Irishman was not signed in time to feature in the Capital One Cup game at Southend United.

"I can't wait to get started," he said. "I feel I will bring creativity to the side and hopefully I can also weigh in with goals."

"I'm very excited by the challenge that stands before me here. I know all about the style of play, so I want to get regular games under my belt and do well for the club."

"I know what a good standard League One is. There are some tough teams but, from what I have seen here, we have the tools and set-up in place to do well."

Forde joined Wolves in 2009 and went on to make 28 appearances – including six in the Premier League – after making his debut against Northampton in 2011. He is Dean Smith's seventh signing.

Villa's joy over coup on Santos

PAUL LAMBERT has hailed the signing of Colombia World Cup star Carlos Sanchez as a "great coup" for Villa.

The 28-year-old defensive midfielder signed a four-year deal after completing a move from Spanish side Elche in a deal believed to be worth £4.7m.

He has 48 caps for his national side including four in Brazil as Colombia reached the quarter-finals.

"Carlos is a very experienced professional who played a prominent role in a Colombian team which captured everyone's imagination," said Lambert. "He's a great coup for Villa."

"He does the simple things really well and he's excellent at spotting the danger, dealing with it and keeping it simple."

"His physical strength, too, is something we will benefit from in the middle of the pitch and his role will be a really important one for the team."

Wolves doc's Premier role

WOLVES club doctor Matt Perry is to become the Premier League's first medical advisor.

Dr Perry will retire from general practice in Albrighton, where he has worked for 28 years, to take up the newly-created part-time role.

Dr Perry, who will also continue at Molineux, will provide advice and support to the Premier League in relation to all medical issues.

He said: "This new position is an exciting challenge which I am really looking forward to."

"This role is about co-ordinating and ensuring there is a joined up approach"

Comeback for Walsall to grab victory

Continental Star 1 Walsall Wood 2
WOOD came from behind to record their first win of the season against a slick Star side, who had gone ahead after just five minutes.

Louis Garfield Robinson, playing for his third different team in 10 months against Wood, gave them the lead.

On two minutes a neat interchange wide on the Wood right saw Tom Evans release Luke Adams down the right of the box, his low cross was cut back from the bye-line but Richard Gerald put the ball behind for a corner.

The flag kick delivered to the far post was headed over by Joey Butlin.

In virtually their first attack Star went ahead, a clever right to left move involving Ricardo Swaby and Ansu Lissa saw the ball delivered out left to Garfield Robinson, the

Football

referee allowed the advantage as he rode two foul challenges before he hit a swinging drive into the top left hand corner to open the scoring.

Then on 15 minutes Anton Caines-Powell won the ball wide left, his neat ball inside was collected at pace by Robinson, another curling drive bringing a good save from Mario Kisiel.

It was a cagey midfield stalemate until on 26 minutes Evans won a right wing corner for Wood, Shawn Boothe getting in a brave near post header, getting injured in the process, that was deflected inches wide.

Nine minutes later Evans raced on to a ball through the centre but was tripped 25 yards out. Butlin firing the free kick

wide. Then on 40 minutes Evans wide right crossed to the near post, Scott Rickards powerful header was half stopped by keeper Jordan Ellis and Dwayne Robinson calmly cleared the ball off the line.

Wood should have equalised on 43 minutes, Evans swapped wings, raced away down the left, his cross hit first time high over by Danny Forrest under pressure from Gerald.

Walsall finally scored their second goal of the season, after a wait of 278 minutes when in the 50th minute from a left wing corner skipper Lee Stretton powered in a downward header to level the scores.

On 62 minutes Modou Jara's slide rule ball released Swaby into the right of the box, Jamel Fuller saving the day with a superbly timed tackle.

From another left wing corner four min-

utes later Butlin rose highest and powered a header home to give Wood a lead for the first time this season.

With 72 minutes gone and a lovely piece of link-up play by Harry Harris and Butlin saw Evans released into the right of the box only for him to finish wildly, the ball going out for a throw in on the far side.

Star were then awarded a penalty for a push in the box, only for the referee to change his mind after consulting his assistant who ruled the fouled player off side.

Wood came roaring back, Adams came in from wide right on 75 minutes to set up Harris to send a first time effort whistling just wide.

Wood were content to play out the rest of the time without further mishaps, but somehow the referee found six extra minutes that really made for a tense finish.

Carns' edge as Wood go through in cup run

FAVase – Extra Preliminary Round.

Walsall Wood 1 Heath Hayes 0

WOOD progressed through to the next round courtesy of a stunning 90th minute effort from substitute Dave Carns.

An injury time siege on the Wood goal was repelled with difficulty but Wood held out to progress to a home tie with Stafford Rangers.

Wood were first to threaten when after two minutes Tom Evans raced clear wide right, his low cross put behind by Tom Baggott to deny Joey Butlin.

The right wing corner was delivered to the far post by Harry Harris, Butlin putting a header inches too high.

It was another 15 minutes before the midfield stalemate was broken, a long ball wide right almost picked out Evans, keeper Tom Burns handling the ball outside his area to keep out the flying winger.

The keeper got away with a booking, the free kick easily cleared.

On 21 minutes a free kick wide right for Hayes was hit into the centre of the Wood box, Jack Arrowsmith just failing to connect with a header.

After 29 minutes a long ball forward was misjudged by Ryan Burgwin, Evans racing into the right of the box, his low cross bounced off the foot of Danny Forrest giving Burns an easy save. A long clearance by Wood keeper Mario Kisiel was nodded on by Corey Curritthers who collected the ball at pace and hit a 30 yard effort wide.

A rare visitor's attack on 34 minutes saw Joe Geldard make space wide right, his low cross cut out by Wood skipper Lee Stretton to frustrate the ever dangerous

Football

David Waple. Wood went close to opening the scoring on 39 minutes, a neat ball in from wide left by Craig Deakin was flicked on by Butlin for Curritthers to hit a first time effort swinging wide.

Three minutes into the second half Adam Langley's forceful run wide left saw him come in along the byeline, his low cross taken by Kisiel at the feet of Joe Geldard.

A central free kick was headed on by Waple to Joe Geldard, Curritthers throwing himself in front of his first time effort. On the hour Stretton had a shot blocked at one end and immediately Kisiel under pressure on his left hand post punched the ball off the head of Waple.

On 66 minutes a long ball forward by Stretton was headed backwards by Arrowsmith, Burns racing from his area to head clear from Evans.

Then on 90 minutes a corner was this time cleared out to Dave Carns 25 yards out, he took the ball on his chest before firing an unstoppable rising drive into the left hand top corner that Burns couldn't keep out.

It was a typical blood and thunder cup tie with Wood having the better of the few chances on offer.

Tully blows swim records out the water



Tully Kearney with her bronze medal and mascot after her record-breaking swim

STRETLY School's para swimmer Tully Kearney has once again been in record-breaking form at the ASA Welsh Nationals.

The Boldmere Swimming Club member who won bronze at the IPC World Championships in Montreal last year on her senior international debut, was in great form and the second day of competition at the Welsh National Pool in Swansea, saw her break the SM10 World Record in the 400 m individual medley (subject to ratification). Kearney's time

of 5.31.79 lowered the British record held by Dame Sarah Storey by nine seconds which had stood since before she was born, and the European and World Records held by Elodie Lorandi of France by four seconds.

This achievement was her second recent success following on from the British Gas International Meet in Manchester at the beginning of July.

In her signature event, the 400m freestyle, Kearney finished in 4.45.79 in the multi-classification final, well ahead of the field and, more impor-

tantly, took the overall Gold medal - three multi-disability points ahead of Ellie Simmonds, who on this occasion had to settle for silver, with visually impaired swimmer Hannah Russell taking the bronze.

These successes softened the blow of her early season disappointment, when she fell ill at the trials for the IPC European Championships in April, and was controversially left out of the team following the introduction of a clause disallowing medical appeals.

Morris is facing crucial months

KIERON MORRIS reckons the next four months are pivotal if he wants a long-term future with Walsall.

The winger netted his first senior goal in the 2-1 Capital One Cup win at Southend.

Morris, aged 20, a product of the Saddlers youth system, re-signed on a short-term contract in the summer.

The winger acknowledges it is a case of now or never if he is to become part of manager Dean Smith's plans.

"I have to kick on from here," he said. "I am only on a short-term contract and my aim is to get a new deal."

"I need to get more games as my current deal is up at Christmas. I just want to push on now and get more games and goals under my belt."

Morris made his first-team debut at Carlisle toward the tail end of last season and his substitute appearance at Roots Hall was just the fourth of his professional career. He admits his confidence has increased. "Having come off the bench a few times now I am as not as nervous as I was before," he said. "When you first get on it is a bit nerve-racking but once you get a couple of touches of the ball it is fine."

Khalsa get a brace of victories

Sporting Khalsa 3 Dudley Sports 0

Khalsa make it two wins out of two in the West Midlands Regional League Premier.

The game kicked off in horrendous weather with hail, thunder and heavy rain.

Khalsa took charge of the game early on and in the eighth minute Khalsa took the lead through debut Matt Martin who side footed the ball into the net from a square ball from Chris Henry in the box.

Chris Henry eventually increased Khalsa's lead after 36 minutes with a simple tap-in when he pounced on a poor clearance from the visitor's defender.

The game opened after the interval and both sides had opportunities to score.

Ten minutes from time, the visitor's keeper saved Brad Lawley's free kick but Daniel Lloyd bundled the ball into the net from the rebound.

Saido moving on from woes

ALBION striker Saido Berahino claims he has learned lessons from last season's off-field scrapes after kicking off the new campaign with a double strike against Sunderland.

The 21-year-old admits he is a "better person" for his mistakes last term.

Berahino was involved in a dressing-room bust-up with team-mate James Morrison after the 3-3 home draw with Cardiff in March and was then reprimanded after a video of him inhaling nitrous oxides leaked to a newspaper.

"I have learned a lot," said Berahino. "It's made me a better player."

Kieron's kick kills off Southend's cup run

Southend 1 Walsall 2

SUBSTITUTE Kieron Morris scored a stunning late winner as Walsall edged past League Two Southend in the League Cup.

The winger smashed home a 25-yard effort three minutes from time as the Saddlers snatched a dramatic win following a second half in which the hosts dominated.

Mal Benning's first-half opener looked to have put the Saddlers in command, but Ryan Leonard hammered in a free-kick midway through the second period to pull the home side deservedly level.

Saddlers keeper Richard O'Donnell then pulled off a wonder save to keep the score level before Morris won it. It was harsh on the hosts but Dean Smith and his team will not care. Smith had spoken before the game of the need to end Walsall's rotten recent

record in cup competitions and that was most likely behind his decision to name an unchanged team from the one which drew 1-1 at Port Vale.

Southend boss Phil Brown made seven changes to the line-up which defeated Accrington, including in goal where Paul Smith replaced regular No.1 Dan Bentley.

It was the hosts who were first to threaten and James Chambers did superbly to deny Shaquille Coulthirst a clear strike at goal after the striker had scamped on to a long, headed clearance and the linesman's flag – to the Saddlers' surprise – had stayed down.

The visitors did not test Smith before taking the lead 25 minutes in, with a goal which said plenty about their fine build-up play.

Benning brought down a loose ball before laying it off and stealing past the backline to flick home Andy Taylor's low centre.

Tom Bradshaw then thought he had a second when he tapped home after Smith had parried James Baxendale's deflected drive into his path but the striker was denied by an offside flag.

That was the signal for a period of pressure from the hosts as they looked to level before the break. O'Donnell was forced into his first save of the game when he parried Jack Payne's fierce drive and then, more importantly, was off his line in a flash to deflect Lee Barnard's shot wide.

Then in first stoppage time came controversy as Barnard again got away and was brought down by Paul Downing.

Referee Gavin Ward decided the offence

took place outside the box and awarded a free-kick and yellow card to the Saddlers man, earning him the predictable boos from the home crowd.

Bradshaw went close to doubling the lead early in the second half but his shot from the right-hand side of the box whistled past the far post.

But that was only the precursor to something of a barrage from the hosts, who should have restored parity after a series of chances in the opening period of the half.

When the equaliser did arrive it was a stunner, as Leonard thumped a 25-yard free-kick past O'Donnell.

There was nothing the keeper could do when, with extra-time looming, Morris picked the ball up 25 yards out and lashed an unstoppable shot into the top corner.

SPORT

Carns' edge

Wood win through in chase for cup

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Record splashed

Tully cause ripples with her times

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Saddlers goals are coming, – Clifford

BILLY CLIFFORD says Walsall win find the goals to go with their "fantastic" football.

The Saddlers failed to score in Saturday's League One home opener with Bradford City as they were held to a 0-0 draw.

But ahead of tonight's clash with Bradford City at the Banks's, midfielder Clifford has expressed his confidence that it is just a matter of time before the goals start to flow.

"At times, our football was fantastic," said the former Chelsea man. One and two touches, playing it wide, getting crosses into the box, we just need that finishing touch.

"We work on that in training and hopefully we will get the goals. It will come."

"We just lacked that end product on Saturday and we will work on it during the week."

Clifford admits to being pleasantly surprised at the quality of the Saddlers play, having joined on the eve of the season after negotiating his release from Stamford Bridge.

The 21-year-old is determined to feature as much as possible after being handed his first start for the club against the Bantams.

"I just want to play as much football as I can," he said.

Matt's strike is killer blow

Dudley Sports 0 Willenhall 1

A Matt Dorgan wonder strike won an absorbing West Midlands Premier game for Willenhall at Dudley Sports.

Michael Clark, Andre Calder, Joe Noel and Ryan Ward all had efforts in the first 20 minutes without threatening a goal.

The winner came a minute later and what a score it was.

Tom Turner's knock down bounced perfectly for Dorgan and he absolutely hammered his strike, flying over Dominic Richards' head and in from almost 30 yards.

Turner then fired wide a minute later and JackPottinger and Ward also went close but generally it was stout defending that kept out the home side and a couple of excellent blocks from keeper Newton won the day.

Pics snatch hard-earned draw at 10-man Frickley

Frickley Athletic 1 Rushall Olympics 1

A goal six minutes from time earned Rushall Olympic a deserved point at Frickley Athletic on the opening day of the Evo-Stik Premier season.

The goal was just reward for the Pics' second-half dominance, but was late in coming.

Manager Richard Sneekes, in his first competitive game in charge, gave debuts to new signings Chris Westwood, Tony Capaldi, Ryan Winwood, Jake Heath and Craig Marshall, who has enjoyed previous spells at the club.

Football

It was the visitors who started brightly with Marshall heading Capaldi's cross just wide and a Heath through ball, for Zak Martin, was intercepted by John Cyrus. After a quiet opening to the game the home side came into it, but Luke Hornsey blasted his shot high and wide and then both Danny South and Jack Wakefield saw headers go agonisingly wide.

On 28 minutes, though, it was the home side who went in front with a rather fortu-

nate goal. A shot from Joel Barnett was going well wide until it hit Pics central defender Gavin Caines and the ball diverted past goalkeeper Chris Gemmell to give the home side the lead.

Little had been seen of the Pics as an attacking force in the first period. But right on the stroke of half-time they almost drew level as Marshall saw his header hit the bar before being cleared.

The home side received a major setback five minutes into the second half when they were reduced to 10 men – Hornsey seeing red for a two-footed challenge on Jack Cra-

dock. The Pics then realized their great opportunity and began to push the home side back. Martin went close with a run and cross-shot and then Craddock fired in a shot which was well wide.

The home side hit back and had penalty appeals turned down when Caines appeared to have shoved Ryan Williams, but the referee waved aside the home team's appeals.

It looked like all Rushall's pressure would be to no avail until six minutes from time when Jack Duggan headed home yet another Capaldi cross. Aaron Farrell missed a chance for a later winner for the Pics.

Fans will warm to Lionheart

DEAN HOLDEN tipped Liam Kinsella to become a Walsall fans' favourite after claiming the teenager has "the heart of a lion".

The 18-year-old first year professional enjoyed a fine senior debut in Saturday's 0-0 draw with Bradford, after being drafted into the Saddlers team following an injury to right-back James O'Connor.

And player-coach Holden, who himself made a first appearance in 16 months when he replaced James Chambers late on, believes the youngster is set for a bright future.

"He came in and what a debut he had," said Holden. "All the plaudits should be going to him. Right-back is not really his natural position and that is similar to me as I came in at right-back on my debut so there are a lot of similarities."

"He came in and was outstanding, he has the heart of a lion. He is an all-action footballer and I think he is someone the fans will relate to, he never gives up."

Holden played the final 20 minutes of the game at centre-back after Chambers was forced off with a hamstring injury.

Refs group gets national award

WOLVERHAMPTON Referees' Association have been handed a top national award.

They are just the 11th Association in the country – out of 256 – to achieve the Bronze Award and the first in the West Midlands.

It is for the Association's work with the referees of Wolverhampton.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford, Thursday, August 21

NEW FACES BUT SAME OLD STORY

Walsall 0 Bradford City 0

MUCH had happened since Andy Butler last set foot inside the Banks's Stadium.

But from his vantage point in the Homeserve Stand, after a rather out-of-the-blue return to watch his old team-mates on Saturday, the former Saddlers skipper may have been forgiven for wondering if anything had really changed.

Despite several new faces, the goalless draw against Bradford City bore many of the hallmarks familiar to last season. Walsall dominated possession but could not find the goal to seal all three points.

Only with seconds remaining was either 'keeper seriously tested when Adam Chambers drew a fine save from Bantams custodian Jordan Pickford.

Frustration

Yet while Dean Smith and his players might have been saddled with a familiar feeling of frustration, there were enough promising signs to suggest this result may not set the tone for what is to come.

For one thing, it was something of a surprise to see Bradford, with victories in their opening two games, adopt such a negative game-plan.

Phil Parkinson's side didn't exactly park the bus but it was impossible to escape the conclusion they had come for, and were happy with, the draw. While the Saddlers failed to solve the riddle posed by the vis-

Football

itors' massed defence, it is also important to remember this is still a relatively new forward line, still learning each other's game.

Tom Bradshaw didn't add to his opening day goal at Port Vale but has already confirmed himself as a more mobile replacement for last season's top scorer Craig Westcarr.

Ashley Grimes was less effective than in his previous outings but still nearly laid on the winner for Chambers late on, while Romaine Sawyers is showing signs of growing further into his role behind the main striker.

And in midfield, it was impossible not to be impressed by the full debut of Billy Clifford.

The former Chelsea man is increasingly looking like the deal of the summer and showed his range of passing and excellent vision with a lofted through ball which Bradshaw so nearly volleyed past Pickford midway through the first half.

All that said, much is still likely to ride on Smith successfully bringing in a centre-forward before the end of the month.



Bradford on the defensive as Ashley Grimes presses forward during the scoreless draw at Banks's Stadium

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